United Nations A/62/378–S/2007/585

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 October 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 75
Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 28 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to bring to your attention a letter from Ivo Sanader, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia (see annex) and to request your kind assistance in circulating it as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mirjana **Mladineo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-52911 (E) 091007

Annex to the identical letters dated 28 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It was with profound disappointment and astonishment that I learned about the Judgment of the Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) delivered on 27 September 2007. The sentences for former senior officers of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) for the war crimes committed in the Republic of Croatia in 1991 — Mile Mrkšić to 20 years' imprisonment, Veselin Šljivančanin to 5 years' imprisonment and acquittal for the third accused, Miroslav Radić — stand in blatant disparity with the historical facts surrounding their misconduct.

The Republic of Croatia cannot remain silent while justice is ignored by the very institution established to serve it. The main goal of ICTY is to provide justice and ease the pain in the souls of those who have suffered so much and are now trying to find solace after all the hardship they have gone through. Therefore, impartiality, fairness and absence of any prejudice must be the guiding principles of ICTY and the bedrock of every verdict. Yesterday, unfortunately, this was not the case.

Vukovar and Ovčara are places where the worst war crimes in the territory of the Republic of Croatia were committed during the Homeland War, and along with Srebrenica and Sarajevo they are internationally recognized symbols of the war and destruction brought upon the innocent victims of the Milošević regime's aggression. In Ovčara, on 20 November 1991, after the brutal siege of Vukovar by the JNA and Serb paramilitary forces, 264 patients from the Vukovar Hospital were tortured and killed in cold blood. For Croatia, Ovčara stands as the icon of our struggle and suffering, a place of deep sorrow but also one of sublime pride and eternal remembrance. No Croatian Government shall ever allow Ovčara's memory to be stained and disrespected. With a heavy heart I have to state that the above-mentioned ICTY judgement is doing precisely that.

At the time of the crime, Mile Mrkšić was a Colonel in the JNA and commander of all Serb forces, including JNA, in the Vukovar theatre of war; Veselin Šljivančanin was a Major in the JNA and head of the JNA security organ and was thus empowered to select people for execution from among the captured and wounded in Vukovar; Miroslav Radić was a JNA Captain and commander of the company that took part in the occupation of Vukovar Hospital. All three were charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes for their alleged participation in a joint criminal enterprise whose goal was to mistreat and murder patients from the Vukovar Hospital. All the events that took place during the siege of Vukovar and in Ovčara are well documented and known to ICTY and United Nations Member States. I would just like to recall that the first written evidence on the Ovčara war crimes was submitted to the Security Council as early as 27 May 1994 in the final report of the Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992), annexed to the letter addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1994/674). Since then, numerous additional facts regarding this heinous crime have been collected and submitted to the Tribunal, more than sufficient to provide for an appropriate judgement.

I will not elaborate upon the legal inconsistencies of this shameful verdict, but rather leave this to the appeal process that shall follow. Instead, I want to emphasize that the Republic of Croatia was one of the founders of ICTY and a firm supporter of United Nations Security Council resolutions 808 (1993) and 827 (1993), through which the Tribunal was established for "the sole purpose of prosecuting persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia". Today I cannot but openly question whether this sole purpose has been well served.

From the very beginning Croatia has been supporting ICTY activities aimed at spearheading the shift from impunity to accountability, establishing the facts beyond any doubt and strengthening international law and the rule of law. In this respect, the Croatian Government has made constant efforts to encourage the work of the institution devoted to the implementation of criminal adjudication for the purpose of international fairness that shall overcome double standards and cynical political engineering. ICTY should serve as the voice of victims, protector of their dignity and healer of their wounds. Through its latest judgement, ICTY has failed to serve any of these principles, and has fallen short of all of the assigned goals.

From the first days after the establishment of the Tribunal, the Croatian Government has actively cooperated with the Chambers and the Office of the Prosecutor. In this way, Croatia has significantly helped to cast light on the events that are the subject of the indictments and the investigations. Croatia has fulfilled all its obligations towards ICTY and expects nothing less from the Tribunal in regard to when it comes to the ICTY obligation to serve justice and justice alone.

Croatia will deliver its position on the matter in detail during the upcoming debate in the General Assembly under agenda item 75 ("Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991"), as well as in the Security Council under the same agenda item. The time has come to seriously re-examine all aspects of the work of ICTY, in particular against the background of its failure to serve justice in an even, balanced and impartial way. This is of paramount importance for the future of international criminal justice.

I request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75, and of the Security Council, and that it be urgently brought to the attention of the United Nations Member States.

(*Signed*) Ivo **Sanader**
President of the Government of the Republic of Croatia

United Nations S/2007/586

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 October 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 2 October 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to resolution 1771 (2007) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, adopted on 10 August 2007, by which the Council requested me to re-establish, for a period expiring on 15 February 2008, the Group of Experts established pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 1533 (2004) and expanded pursuant to paragraph 21 of resolution 1596 (2005).

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that I have appointed the following persons to serve on the Group of Experts for the period ending on 15 February 2008:

Abdoulaye Cissoko (Mali, aviation expert);
Caty Clément (Belgium, regional expert);
Amadou Hamidou (Niger, customs expert);
Ramón Miranda Ramos (Spain, arms expert);
Gregory Salter (United Kingdom, finance expert).

I have also selected Mr. Miranda Ramos to serve as Coordinator of the Group of Experts.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-52771 (E) 041007

United Nations A/62/465–S/2007/587

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 October 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 2 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations from 15 to 23 September 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-52852 (E) 051007 081007

Annex to the identical letters dated 2 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Subject: Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 15 to 23 September 2007

Air violations

On 15 September 2007, between 0810 hours and 2120 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh in a northerly direction as far as Markaba and circled over areas of the South. It then departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Between 1135 hours and 1315 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Kila in a northerly direction as far as Shikka and the Bekaa. They then departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

On 16 September 2007, between 1005 hours and 1135 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Kila and circled over the South, Shikka and al-Harmal. They then departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

On 17 September 2007, between 1405 hours and 1443 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Kila and circled over regions of the South, the Bekaa and Shikka. They then departed over the sea off Tripoli.

Between 1500 hours and 1508 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Beirut. They departed over Rumaysh.

Between 1500 hours and 2300 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Sidon and circled between Rayaq and Ba`albek. They then departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

On 18 September 2007, between 1030 hours and 1105 hours, four Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over al-Naqurah and circled over regions of the South. They then departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Between 1405 hours and 1540 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Dayr Mimas as far as the Bekaa, and then headed north and circled over areas of the South, the Bekaa, the North and Beirut. They then departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Between 2100 hours and 2125 hours, two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over al-Naqurah in a northerly direction as far as Jubayl and returned in a southerly direction. They then departed over Rumaysh.

Between 2135 hours and 2300 hours, two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over al-Naqurah in a northerly direction as far as Khaldah and circled over the South. They then departed over Rumaysh.

On 19 September 2007, between 1105 hours and 1230 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Kila and circled over all regions of Lebanon. They then departed over Rumaysh.

On 20 September 2007, between 1315 hours and 1355 hours, two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Kila and circled over Shikka, the Bekaa and the South. They then departed over Kafr Kila.

Between 2030 hours and 2335 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre and circled between Sidon and Tyre. It then departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

On 21 September 2007, between 0922 hours and 0935 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh in a northerly direction as far as Tripoli. They then departed over the sea off Tripoli.

Between 0945 hours and 1045 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Shikka in an easterly direction, and circled between Shikka, al-Arz, Beirut, the South and the Bekaa. They then departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Between 1259 hours and 1605 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah and circled between Sidon and al-Naqurah. It then departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

On 23 September 2007, between 0009 hours and 0155 hours, two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah as far as Juniyah and circled between Beirut and the South. They then departed over al-Naqurah.

Between 0130 hours and 0700 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah and circled between Tyre and al-Naqurah. It then departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

Between 1200 hours and 1300 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Kila and circled between the North and the South. They then departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Sea violations

None reported.

Acts of aggression in the field

Enemy Israeli forces, from their position at Zarit gate, trained a searchlight in the direction of the town of Marwahin on the following dates: 15 September 2007 at 2310 hours, 19 September 2007 at 0050 hours, 20 September 2007 at 2310 hours, and 21 September 2007 at 2230 hours.

On 23 September 2007, between 1045 hours and 1125 hours, enemy Israeli forces fired several rounds of medium-machine-gun fire from their Radar position (opposite Shab`a) in the direction of the area surrounding the position.

United Nations S/2007/588

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 October 2007

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1752 (2007), by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 15 October 2007. It provides an update of the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, since my report of 18 July 2007 (S/2007/439).

2. My Special Representative, Jean Arnault, continued to lead the Mission. He was assisted by the Chief Military Observer, Major General Niaz Muhammad Khan Khattak (Pakistan). The strength of UNOMIG on 1 October 2007 stood at 133 military observers and 19 police officers (see annex).

II. Political process

3. During the reporting period, UNOMIG continued its efforts to maintain stability in the zone of conflict, help prevent the escalation of tensions and facilitate dialogue between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides. The overall approach to the settlement of the conflict remains that a successful dialogue on security, the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, economic rehabilitation and humanitarian issues would help bring about a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict, taking into account the principles contained in the document entitled "Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competences between Tbilisi and Sukhumi", its transmittal letter (see S/2002/88, para. 3) and additional ideas by the sides.

4. My Special Representative maintained regular contact with both sides, as well as with the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General. He took part in the meeting of the senior representatives of the Group of Friends, which took place in Berlin on 20 September.

5. The Mission followed up with the parties on the outcome of the high-level meeting of the Group of Friends, held in Bonn, Germany, on 27 and 28 June and chaired by Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guéhenno (see S/2007/439, paras. 8-14). In keeping with the understandings reached there, in early August UNOMIG convened the Joint Fact-Finding Group,

which also includes the two parties and the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), to investigate the disappearance of David Sigua (see S/2007/182, para. 15). The Joint Fact-Finding Group has held four meetings to date. On 23 August, the Mission facilitated a meeting on African swine fever between the chiefs of the respective veterinary services, which took place in Gali and addressed the spread of the disease. Work on missing persons continued under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The quadripartite meetings, bringing together the two sides, the CIS peacekeeping force and UNOMIG, did not resume by the end of July, as had been called for at the Bonn meeting. In response to the proposed new terms of reference of the quadripartite meetings prepared by UNOMIG (see S/2007/439, para. 39), the Georgian side presented its views and suggestions in the second half of September. There was no progress on other issues discussed during the February and June meetings of the senior representatives of the Group of Friends, with participation by both sides, which were chaired by the United Nations.

6. While a certain degree of progress was made in the dialogue on technical and humanitarian issues, the gap between the two sides on political dialogue remained. The Abkhaz side continued to link the resumption of such dialogue to the return to the status quo ante in the upper Kodori Valley before the Georgian special operation there in July 2006, while the Georgian side insisted that the present situation there was not negotiable. The Georgian side continued to stress the need for a change in the peacekeeping and negotiations mechanisms, which the Abkhaz side is not prepared to underwrite. In the wake of my last report, the Georgian side also criticized the approach followed by the United Nations and the Group of Friends, which, in its view, relegated to the background issues of utmost priority to Georgia, in particular the political settlement of the conflict and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees. In this context, the Georgian side put forward the proposal for a review of the United Nations peace process, with a view to enhancing its effectiveness in resolving those priority issues.

7. During the period under review, the Georgian side took strong issue with what it described as the illegal acquisition of State and private property in Abkhazia, Georgia; the military exercises carried out by the Abkhaz de facto armed forces from 20 to 24 August (see para. 10 below); and the operations of the CIS peacekeeping force (see para. 16 below). For its part, the Abkhaz side expressed concern over what it termed a dangerous Georgian military build-up, which was illustrated in its view by recent increases in the military budget of the Georgian Government and the continued armed presence in the upper Kodori Valley. Furthermore, both the Georgian Government and the Abkhaz de facto authorities took very strong public positions following the deadly clash between the sides on 20 September (see para. 18 below).

8. I met President Saakashvili, on 26 September, in the margins of the General Assembly in New York. The President stated Georgia's readiness for dialogue and support for confidence-building measures between the parties. At the same time, he reaffirmed the points made by Foreign Minister Bezhuashvili in a letter sent to me in the aftermath of the 6 August missile incident in Tsitelubani, regarding the need for a comprehensive review of the peace process in order to overcome the current status quo. In his statement to the Assembly, Mr. Saakashvili expressed his expectation that such a review should lead to fundamental changes in the negotiation and peacekeeping formats, create a new legal framework, establish a

plan for the return of internally displaced persons and promote economic rehabilitation, security and direct dialogue, without preconditions, between the parties. President Saakashvili also outlined the parameters of the Government's proposals for a final settlement, namely the right to self-governance for those living in Abkhazia within Georgian international borders under international guarantees, constitutional changes to enshrine the protection of minorities, including language rights, the protection of culture, language and education, and a robust role for the European Union.

III. Developments in the Mission's area of responsibility

Gali sector

9. The security situation in the Gali sector witnessed a relative improvement and has been generally calm. At the same time, a sense of volatility and unpredictability remained. The Mission maintained a vigorous, irregular pattern of patrolling throughout the sector, including deployment of temporary forward patrol bases to enhance visibility and reaction capabilities.

10. From 20 to 24 August, the Abkhaz side conducted a military exercise, which culminated in a live firing exercise in the Novaglou training area in the restricted-weapons zone on 24 August. In this context, a violation report was issued for overflights by two L-39 jet aircraft over the restricted-weapons zone on 20 August. The Mission monitored the live firing exercise of 24 August, involving about 400 to 500 troops and anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapon systems, which were below the threshold of 81mm established by the 1994 Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces (see S/1994/583, annex I). During the same live firing exercise, two L-39 jet aircraft flew in the vicinity of the training area and fired on targets in the Black Sea, and machine gun firing took place from an MI-8 and an MI-24 helicopter. UNOMIG urged the Abkhaz side to avoid the use of such weapons in the vicinity of the restricted-weapons zone.

11. During the exercise, the Abkhaz side reported a series of overflights by unmanned aerial vehicles over the Gali district and the Ochamchira training area. A UNOMIG patrol heard a sound similar to an unmanned aerial vehicle on 24 August while observing the Abkhaz military exercise, but was unable to make visual recognition. The Abkhaz side reported an attempt to shoot down unmanned aerial vehicles on 23 August. On 30 August, the CIS peacekeeping forces also observed a light aircraft flying along the ceasefire line in the vicinity of Tagiloni Village.

12. In July, the Abkhaz side restricted the movement of the local population across the ceasefire line, closing all crossing points except the Inguri Bridge for one week. Five crossing points were reopened by the end of July, but restrictions on the transportation of goods remained. As on previous occasions, the Mission has raised this issue with the de facto authorities, as such restrictions caused unnecessary hardship for the local population.

13. Criminal incidents reported to UNOMIG patrols during the period under review included one killing, three robberies and two abductions. The Mission also received and followed up on reports of alleged forced labour and arbitrary taxation during the hazelnut harvest season. It has called upon the Abkhaz de facto authorities to take steps to put an end to this arbitrary practice.

14. The United Nations police continued to liaise with the Abkhaz de facto militia in the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts. They conducted six training courses in policing methods and practices, which were attended by 50 de facto law enforcement officers. The United Nations police conducted a joint patrol and four monitoring visits to local de facto law enforcement facilities and handed over two sets of forensic and police tactical equipment donated by the Government of Italy.

15. The Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, continued to follow closely the issues that have an impact on the life of residents in the Gali district. It monitored conscription practices in the district, as well as the situation related to the freedom of movement of local residents and the issue of language of instruction, which remained a concern to the local population and those willing to return. The Office continued regular monitoring visits to the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli de facto police detention centres.

Zugdidi sector

16. The situation in the Zugdidi sector remained calm, with occasional tension rising in connection with a series of incidents involving the Georgian authorities and the CIS peacekeeping forces. Two such incidents occurred on 25 and 28 July, when a convoy of Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs personnel, en route to the upper Kodori Valley through the security zone, refused to be subjected to checking procedures by CIS peacekeeping forces personnel at post 302. The Georgian side stressed that post 302 was an observation post, not a check post, and therefore had no authority to stop or check Georgian vehicles. It also argued that those procedures were causing undue inconvenience to the local population moving between the Svaneti and Zugdidi districts. The CIS peacekeeping force argued that stringent measures were required because of a lack of notification by the Georgian side of movements between the upper Kodori Valley and the Zugdidi sector. Tensions subsided following a meeting on 30 July between the CIS peacekeeping force Commander and Georgian officials, during which measures for the verification of convoys were mutually agreed.

17. On 28 August, a CIS peacekeeping force patrol in the restricted-weapons zone was involved in a traffic accident with a local vehicle. While escorted to the Zugdidi police headquarters, the patrol was intercepted and disarmed by an armed contingent of Georgian law enforcement personnel and subsequently detained. The Chief of Staff of the CIS peacekeeping force was initially denied access to the police station, as was the UNOMIG patrol that responded to the situation. The detained CIS peacekeeping forces personnel were released several hours later, following discussions between the Georgian authorities and the Chief of Staff of the CIS peacekeeping force. The Georgian side claimed that the CIS peacekeeping force had violated the Moscow Agreement by not providing prior notification of its patrol in the restricted-weapons zone. The Commander of the CIS peacekeeping force subsequently claimed that the Georgian side had violated the Moscow Agreement by interfering with the CIS peacekeeping force's freedom of movement in the conflict zone. The Chief Military Observer of UNOMIG convened a Joint Fact-Finding Group investigation into the incident, but the Georgian side refused to participate on the grounds that the incident was self-explanatory and did not require further investigation. For its part, the CIS peacekeeping force suspended patrolling in the restricted-weapons zone, which included two to three patrols per week for the last 13 years of the peacekeeping operation. The Moscow Agreement does lend itself to

differing interpretations with regard to article 2 (f) subjecting the movement of the CIS peacekeeping force in the restricted-weapons zone to "agreement with the parties" and article 4 providing the CIS peacekeeping force with "freedom of movement in the security zone and the restricted-weapons zone". At the same time, from a peacekeeping perspective, only the unrestricted freedom of movement is consistent with the mandate to verify whether both sides comply with their undertaking under the Moscow Agreement not to deploy heavy weapons in the restricted-weapons zone. It is hoped that the Georgian Government and the CIS peacekeeping force will come to an understanding that will enable the peacekeeping mechanism to maintain its effectiveness.

18. On 20 September, an armed clash between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides took place outside the zone of conflict. Seven Abkhaz personnel were apprehended by the Georgian side, one was wounded and two former Russian officers reportedly on contract with the Abkhaz forces were killed. The two sides provided different versions of the incident. The Abkhaz de facto authorities claimed it to be a raid by Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs personnel on the Abkhaz training camp co-located with a de facto border guard post at Bokhundjara, within Abkhaz-controlled territory, close to the administrative boundary. The Georgian side said that a group of Abkhaz "saboteurs" had entered Georgian-controlled territory to disrupt work on the road to the upper Kodori Valley, currently under construction, in an attempt to isolate the valley from the rest of Georgia. It indicated that after an initial confrontation followed by an intense pursuit, the final clash had taken place on the Georgian-controlled side of the administrative boundary. With the consent of both sides, UNOMIG is currently carrying out its own independent fact-finding efforts to clarify the circumstances of the incident.

19. On the same day, just after the incident described above, the CIS peacekeeping force post 302, together with UNOMIG temporary observation post "Golf", was surrounded and, in effect, neutralized, by a sizeable and well armed force of about 70 to 80 personnel and vehicles of the Georgian Criminal Police and Ministry of Internal Affairs troops who took control of the barriers. CIS peacekeeping personnel on the post, being heavily outnumbered, did not respond. Shortly thereafter, a large convoy of 37 light vehicles and 1 truck was able to pass through at high speed in the direction of Zugdidi. It later transpired that the convoy transported the seven Abkhaz personnel apprehended during the clash described in the paragraph above. The CIS peacekeeping force Commander strongly protested to UNOMIG the actions by the Georgian authorities as an attempt to prevent forcibly the CIS peacekeeping personnel from fulfilling their mandated functions. UNOMIG has conveyed to the Georgian Government its view that the ceasefire and separation of forces regime should be maintained and strengthened, including the notification and verification procedures applicable to the security and restricted-weapons zone.

20. On 21 August, the Georgian authorities reported the radar tracking of two L-39-type jet aircraft crossing the ceasefire line, overflying Zugdidi town and returning to the Abkhaz side of the ceasefire line. The Abkhaz side denied any involvement and there has been no independent verification of the incident. The Georgian side has been asked to provide additional information to allow an investigation into the incident.

21. During the reporting period, the UNOMIG temporary observation post, co-located with CIS peacekeeping post 302 in the Zugdidi security zone, observed

32 ground movements of Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs personnel in the direction of the upper Kodori Valley, of which 14 were notified by the Georgian side. During the same period, 29 overflights through the security zone in the direction of the upper Kodori Valley were observed, of which 10 were notified. Four violation reports were issued to the Georgian side for the movement of isolated military vehicles in the security zone. While it is understood that many of those movements are related to the rotation of personnel in the upper Kodori Valley, it nevertheless remains very important that the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs notify UNOMIG fully and promptly about movements of its armed personnel through post 302/temporary observation post "Golf", as previously agreed.

22. Criminal incidents reported to UNOMIG military observers during the period under review included two killings, two robberies and two abductions.

23. The United Nations police held 49 training courses in crime scene management, self-defence, suspect management, traffic police matters, weapons handling and other vital policing skills. Almost 400 Georgian law enforcement officers participated. United Nations police conducted 34 joint patrols with local law enforcement officers within the security zone and 66 monitoring visits to local police facilities. It also continued to implement its community policing and crime prevention programmes by arranging four meetings of crime prevention bodies and a drug-abuse prevention course at a youth camp in the Zugdidi district.

Kodori Valley

24. The unidentified armed groups sighted in the lower Kodori Valley on 25 June (see S/2007/439, para. 28) were confirmed in July by the Georgian side as Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs personnel and withdrawn on 20 July.

25. On 18 July, UNOMIG reactivated its Kodori Team Base in Adjara, in the upper Kodori Valley, enhancing the Mission's monitoring capability in the valley and contributing to transparency. Daily patrols to both the upper and lower Kodori Valley did not observe the presence of any heavy weapons in the area. As at 7 August, the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs reported that its strength in the upper Kodori Valley was at 576. UNOMIG continued its efforts to verify the strength and ascertain whether the situation in the valley was in line with the 1994 Moscow Agreement. The Georgian authorities continued construction of a new road bypassing the Khida Pass (the entry point to the Kodori Valley from the Georgian-controlled side), which is expected to be completed by October and will allow year-round access to the upper Kodori Valley.

26. From 19 to 21 September, UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force undertook a joint patrol of the lower and upper Kodori Valley, which was conducted with security guarantees by both sides. UNOMIG did not observe the presence of any heavy military weapons.

27. On 21 August, the Georgian side reported that its radar in Tbilisi had traced an unidentified aircraft entering the Kodori Valley from the Russian Federation and crossing the Klukorski Pass in the direction of Tkvarcheli. In order to investigate the incident, the Georgian side was requested to provide the radar report. While the report was duly provided, inadequate technical details in the report did not allow for an accurate interpretation and the Georgian side has been asked to provide additional information.

28. On 24 August, Georgian mass media reported that an unidentified aircraft had violated Georgian airspace in the upper Kodori Valley on 22 August and had been shot down by Georgian border guards in the area. On 25 August, the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs confirmed that incursion, but was unable to confirm that the aircraft had been shot down. According to Georgian officials, border guards had fired several bursts from a machine gun at the aircraft, but no wreckage was subsequently found.

29. On 1 September, the CIS peacekeeping force reported hearing helicopter sounds in the lower Kodori Valley, and one Abkhaz militiaman claimed to have observed a Georgian helicopter near Tsebelda village in the lower Kodori Valley. No independent confirmation of the report was available. The CIS peacekeeping force launched two helicopter patrols in the area that same day and reported observing signs of the presence of personnel and equipment at various places on the heights north of CIS peacekeeping force checkpoint 106 in the lower Kodori Valley, including a satellite antenna in the vicinity of Achamkhara ridge north of checkpoint 106. The Georgian side responded that those locations were not occupied by Georgian personnel. Investigation by UNOMIG patrols to the Kodori Valley is ongoing.

Mission-wide developments

30. Weekly quadripartite meetings remained suspended (see S/2007/15, para. 26). The Joint Fact-Finding Group has nine cases open, four of which are awaiting closure. Except for the investigation into the disappearance of David Sigua (see para. 5 above), work on all other cases remains suspended. The Georgian side has called on UNOMIG to convene a Joint Fact-Finding Group investigation into 55 cases of missing persons in Gali town and district (26 of which date back to the period 1993-1994).

IV. Cooperation with the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States

31. UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force continued to maintain close cooperation in fulfilling their respective mandates. The CIS peacekeeping force continued to provide an escort for UNOMIG personnel through the lower Kodori Valley during regular rotation of its Kodori Team Base. The CIS peacekeeping force also provided assistance to the Mission's temporary forward bases, which were established periodically adjacent to CIS peacekeeping force checkpoints on both sides of the ceasefire line.

V. Human rights issues

32. During the reporting period, the United Nations Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, continued its efforts to promote human rights protection and to provide support to local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It continued to conduct regular monitoring visits to detention facilities, monitor court trials and provide legal advisory services to the local population. The Office followed up on individual cases related to due process and the right to a fair trial, arbitrary detention, illegal occupation of property, housing and property rights, freedom of

religion and the right to work. Over the reporting period, the Office's city office in Sukhumi received 113 visitors. Property-related issues continued to form the bulk of plaintiffs' claims.

33. The Office continued to support implementation, in cooperation with local NGOs, of four projects in the framework of the human rights programme funded by the Government of Switzerland. From July to September, in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Georgia, it conducted on-the-job training for a Sukhumi-based television station. The Office organized eight workshops on proposal writing for the mini-grants competition on human rights and civic education projects in the framework of an OSCE-supported project implemented through a local NGO. A mini-grants competition for schools in all districts of Abkhazia was announced on 10 September and human rights libraries are also being set up as part of that project. The Human Rights Centre at Sukhumi University continued its activities, including providing the library and computer centre for the public, and plans to resume its training courses on human rights in October.

VI. Humanitarian and rehabilitation activities

34. Through its Trust Fund, the Mission procured X-ray equipment for the Ochamchira hospital, which was funded by the Government of Germany. The Mission also awarded the contract for construction of the new police station and model training centre in Lia village in the Zugdidi district, which will be built as part of the second phase of the European Commission-funded rehabilitation programme. During the reporting period, the Trust Fund Project Review Committee approved seven projects and concluded five memorandums of understanding designed to implement the following projects: improved conditions for detainees in Dranda prison; rehabilitation of the water supply system for Ingiri village in the Zugdidi district, which houses 1,100 residents, including 700 internally displaced persons; installation of a water access system for Tsarche village and school in the Tkvarcheli district, which is home to more than 1,000 people; and rehabilitation of high-voltage power lines in Khamishkuri village in the Khoba district.

35. United Nations agencies and international NGOs continued to assist vulnerable groups affected by the conflict on the Abkhaz-controlled side of the ceasefire line. The United Nations Development Programme successfully completed the rehabilitation of water supply systems in Gali and Ochamchira towns and in Bedia and Agubedia villages, providing more than 11,000 people with access to safe drinking water and technical training for those communities in sustainable maintenance of water supply systems. In September, the World Food Programme resumed distribution of take-home rations for over 1,000 most at-risk school children in 82 vulnerable schools. In line with its exit strategy, on-site feeding was phased out by July. The agency also helped poor rural households to rehabilitate basic agricultural infrastructure and, in collaboration with World Vision International, provided food to 13,000 people in the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts. Food was also provided to 70 tuberculosis patients in the Gulripshi hospital as part of a joint project with Médecins Sans Frontières.

36. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), together with the Danish Refugee Council, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, continued implementation of four projects in the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts related to supporting agriculture, school rehabilitation and community centres, and to raising awareness about sexual and gender-based violence. In September, UNHCR began a vocational training centre project with the NGO Acción Contra el Hambre in the Gali and Tkvarcheli districts. It also provided a training session on its mandate for local NGOs in Sukhumi. The Danish Refugee Council continued distributing construction materials for a warm dry room to 180 households and food-security grants for 130 households in the Gali district. Other ongoing activities included 12 small-scale community infrastructure projects using the community mobilization method, 9 grants for small- and medium-scale enterprises and 200 microcredit projects in the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts. The Norwegian Refugee Council initiated its Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance project in Abkhazia, with most cases related to issues of housing, inheritance, documentation, dismissal from the workplace and social allowances. The rehabilitation of the Okumi School was completed in September, and of the eight remaining schools throughout Abkhazia, the rehabilitation of two others is close to completion. The Norwegian Refugee Council also continued its shelter assistance project in Okumi village for 80 beneficiaries. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation continued to support rehabilitation projects by Première Urgence in the Gali, Ochamchira, Tkvarcheli and Sukhumi districts. Première Urgence commenced rehabilitation of five tuberculosis patients' houses, in cooperation with Médecins Sans Frontières and support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and another small-scale rehabilitation project in Zugdidi, funded by the Government of France.

VII. Support issues

37. During the reporting period, UNOMIG continued its HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness campaign through its induction training for all Mission personnel. The Mission also conducted a one-week capacity-building training session in all sectors, led by two HIV/AIDS experts from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the Secretariat. The Mission Training Cell and Medical Team, in conjunction with the HIV/AIDS task force, continued to facilitate distribution of HIV/AIDS materials. The Mission also participated in the annual United Nations HIV/AIDS workshop.

38. Through its gender focal points, UNOMIG continued to sensitize its personnel on gender issues through regular broadcasts. During the reporting period, 28 uniformed and 5 civilian personnel (26 male and 7 female) were briefed on gender equality in peacekeeping during their induction training.

39. A Conduct and Discipline Team was constituted in August 2007 and the Mission has since developed a risk-assessment tool for misconduct by UNOMIG staff as well as a strategy for internal and public awareness-raising. All Mission members, both local and international, have completed a certified standards of conduct training course and an electronic library containing guidelines relevant to conduct and discipline issues has been made available to all UNOMIG staff.

VIII. Financial aspects

40. The General Assembly, by its resolution 61/283, appropriated the amount of $35 million for the maintenance of UNOMIG for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNOMIG beyond 15 October 2007, the cost of maintaining the Mission until 30 June 2008 would be limited to the amount approved by the Assembly.

41. As at 30 June 2007, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNOMIG amounted to $8.6 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1,543.8 million.

42. Reimbursement for medical facilities provided to UNOMIG by the Government of Germany had been made for the period until 31 December 2006. As at 1 October 2007, the amount owed for the medical facilities totalled $43,950.

IX. Observations

43. While the relative calm observed in the zone of conflict since my last report to the Security Council contrasted favourably with the situation described in my previous reports, the deadly clash that occurred on 20 September is the most serious incident involving the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in many years. At the time of writing, the UNOMIG fact-finding team has not yet completed its work and it is therefore too early to assign responsibilities. I note, however, that the incident took place in a location outside the area of responsibility of UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force. I recall, in this respect, the recommendations made by UNOMIG following the 11 March incident in the upper Kodori Valley aiming at bringing the areas between the zone of conflict and the Kodori Valley, which are currently outside the purview of UNOMIG, under international monitoring. I hope that, subject to the results of an ongoing feasibility assessment, other UNOMIG recommendations, such as the deployment of unmanned aerial vehicles and artillery radar, can be implemented. While such monitoring offers no guarantee that the deep political tensions that underpin the conflict would not translate into violence, it has proven an invaluable mitigating factor in the past and its benefits should be extended as much as possible.

44. In the same context, I would like to stress the need to prevent the weakening of the ceasefire and separation of forces regime. We will continue to insist on the obligation of both sides to keep their armed personnel clear from one another, observe the restrictions of the restricted-weapons zone and respect the agreed notification and verification procedures. In this respect, I am concerned by the fact that the quadripartite meetings between the two sides, UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force, have not yet resumed. Their continued suspension and absence of security dialogue at the operational level can only compound the negative developments noted in the present report. This point is illustrated by the dangerous stand-offs that have occurred during the reporting period between the Georgian side and the CIS peacekeeping force. While the differences that have surfaced with regard to the location and status of the post of the CIS peacekeeping force or the interpretation of the Moscow Agreement are relevant, they should be addressed through dialogue. They can and must be settled constructively and in a way that protects the ceasefire regime. Let me reiterate in this respect that our emphasis on

the need to avoid any step that could lead to a confrontation between the two sides stems primarily from the position, repeatedly articulated by both sides, that a military resolution of the conflict is neither possible nor desirable. It also stems from our own conviction that force and the threat of force will not advance either the interest of a political settlement or that of the sides.

45. With regard to the contacts between the two sides, the situation remains disappointing. I welcome the Joint Fact-Finding Group's investigation into the disappearance of David Sigua and the dialogue on humanitarian and rehabilitation issues which has resumed since the June meeting of the Group of Friends, with the participation of the two sides. At the same time, one cannot but observe that this dialogue, however productive it is when it takes place, remains overshadowed by developments, including those mentioned in the present report, that generate distrust. In this regard, I want to make it clear that the confidence-building approach taken by the United Nations and endorsed by the Security Council is not a way to elude political issues, but a way to make their resolution possible; the alternative is further confrontation. I take note of Georgia's proposal to review the peace process and express the openness of the United Nations to discussing all ideas intended to promote a lasting resolution of the conflict.

46. Meanwhile, I believe that the presence of UNOMIG continues to contribute to security in the conflict zone and efforts by the international community to promote a peaceful settlement of the conflict. I therefore recommend that the UNOMIG mandate be extended for six months, until 15 April 2008.

47. In conclusion, let me thank once again the Group of Friends, which has continued to make a key contribution to the work of UNOMIG. I also wish to thank my Special Representative, Jean Arnault, the Chief Military Observer, Major General Niaz Muhammad Khan Khattak, and all the women and men of UNOMIG for their continuing and tireless work in often difficult and volatile conditions.

Annex

Countries providing military observers and civilian police personnel (as at 1 October 2007)

Country	*Military observers*
Albania	3
Austria	2
Bangladesh	8
Bolivia	1
Croatia	2
Czech Republic	5
Denmark	5
Egypt	6
France	3
Germany	15
Greece	5
Hungary	7
Indonesia	4
Jordan	7
Lithuania	2
Moldova	1
Mongolia	1
Nepal	1
Pakistan	11[a]
Poland	5
Republic of Korea	7
Romania	2
Russian Federation	4
Sweden	3
Switzerland	4
Turkey	5
Ukraine	5
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5
United States of America	2
Uruguay	3
Yemen	1
Total	**133**

[a] Including the Chief Military Observer.

Country	*Civilian police personnel*
Czech Republic	2
Germany	4
Ghana	1
Philippines	2
Poland	2
Russian Federation	2
Sweden	2
Switzerland	2
Ukraine	2[a]
Total	**19**

[a] Including the Senior Police Adviser.

Map No. 3837 Rev. 55 UNITED NATIONS
October 2007

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2007/589

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 October 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 3 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to request your kind assistance in circulating as a document of the Security Council the present letter and the annexed follow-up information regarding the attack by Abkhaz separatist militants on the police unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia that occurred on 6 September 2007.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-52968S (E) 081007

Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Follow-up information regarding the attack by Abkhaz separatist militants on the police unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia on 6 September 2007

In reference to the attack on the Georgian Interior Ministry police units that occurred on 6 September 2007, we would like to inform you of the following.

Georgian law enforcement agencies have acquired credible information on the identity of one of the militants who were killed. Until recently, Vice-Colonel Igor Muzavatkin, an officer assigned to the Maikop (Russian Federation) Brigade, was a commanding officer of the 558th special infantry battalion, a segment of the highly regarded and decorated 131st special infantry brigade. During the past few years the 558th battalion, under its commanding officer Muzavatkin, was fulfilling peacekeeping duties in Abkhazia, Georgia, particularly in the Gali district. After that assignment, Vice-Colonel Muzavatkin was transferred to the 19th brigade of the 58th Army, stationed in Vladikavkaz (Russian Federation).

The Georgian side expresses its extreme concern about this fact, proving that separatist illegitimate armed forces are constantly receiving support from a party which is supposed to be a facilitator of the conflict resolution process. Regretfully, we have been witnessing such a pattern of behaviour for 14 years. At the same time high-ranking Russian officials consider ordinary support and training to so-called anti-terrorist units, which in reality by nature are illegitimate military formations of the de facto Abkhaz regime, and are responsible for ethnic cleansing that took place in Abkhazia, Georgia.

The Georgian Government once again reminds all States of paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 876 (1993), in which the Council called on all States to prevent the provision from their territories or by persons under their jurisdiction of all assistance, other than humanitarian assistance.

United Nations S/2007/590

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 October 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 3 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with rule 2 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, I have the honour to request that you convene an urgent meeting of the Security Council on 5 October to consider the Council's agenda item entitled "The situation in Myanmar" and, pursuant to rule 39, to invite the Secretary-General's Special Adviser, Ibrahim Gambari, to supply information on his mission.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zalmay **Khalilzad**

07-52835 (E) 041007

United Nations S/2007/591

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 October 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 5 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write to convey to the Security Council the position of the Government of Japan concerning recent developments in Myanmar (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Takasu**
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations

07-53108 (E) 081007

Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Position of the Government of Japan concerning recent developments in Myanmar

The Government of Japan has been calling on the Government of Myanmar to exercise maximum restraint and to refrain from the use of oppressive force as regards the protests in Myanmar. It is extremely regrettable that despite such a démarche, the authorities of Myanmar used force against the peaceful demonstrators, which brought about casualties, including the death of a Japanese citizen.

We call upon the Government of Myanmar not to exercise oppressive force. We also call upon the Government of Myanmar to immediately release all those arrested and detained as a result of the recent peaceful demonstrations.

We hope that the Government of Myanmar will promote democratization, taking sincerely into account the wishes expressed in the protests by the people of Myanmar, engage in national dialogue with a view to achieving national reconciliation, and hence resolve the situation fundamentally and peacefully.

On 28 September, Minister for Foreign Affairs Masahiko Koumura met with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and directly addressed the above points.

Japan also dispatched Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mitoji Yabunaka to Myanmar over the weekend to bring the same message to the authorities of Myanmar: exercise self-restraint towards the peaceful demonstration, and release all political prisoners and detained activists, as well as enter into a dialogue with all parties concerned including Madame Aung San Suu Kyi. Japan had been previously asked by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of Eight who gathered in New York in September to deliver such a message to Myanmar. Deputy Foreign Minister Yabunaka also lodged a protest against the regrettable death of a Japanese citizen and demanded that a thorough investigation be conducted by the authorities of Myanmar.

The acceptance of the visit of Mr. Gambari by the Government of Myanmar itself was a welcome move. We feel, however, that Myanmar has not responded fully to the concern of the international community. We strongly call on the Government of Myanmar to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General's good offices efforts, to work closely with Mr. Gambari, and to respond sincerely to the aforementioned concern, as also requested in the resolution adopted by consensus by the Human Rights Council.

Japan is ready to act constructively in close cooperation with the Secretary-General and Mr. Gambari as well as other interested countries, particularly those of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the countries in the region, to stabilize the situation in Myanmar and to help resolve the issues through dialogue without preconditions between and among the parties concerned in Myanmar.

United Nations A/62/470–S/2007/592

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 October 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 4 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We would like to express our appreciation to you for your principled stance on the incident that took place last week during the general debate of the General Assembly regarding the name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. We appreciate the statement made by your Deputy Spokesman that within the United Nations the Secretary-General and the Secretariat observe the practice of using the name former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as referred to in Security Council resolutions.

We remain deeply concerned by the incident and the actions of the current President of the General Assembly, Srgjan Kerim, who in full contravention of Security Council resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993), and General Assembly resolution 47/225 of 8 April 1993, which recommended that his country of nationality be "provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as the 'former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' pending settlement of the difference that has arisen over the name of the State", chose, when designating his country, to use the very name over which there is a difference.

Likewise, his formal response to the point of order raised by Greece following the above designation, in his capacity as President of the General Assembly, that: "I am fully aware of the facts pointed out in the statement by the representative of Greece. At the same time, as President of the General Assembly, I am due to show respect to the dignity of every single Member State, including my own", is a clear indication of his lack of respect for the impartiality required of his office, as well as for the resolutions and the procedures of the Organization, which have been consistently observed by all previous Presidents of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Member States.

Most important, such actions support the intransigent position of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the ongoing negotiations carried out under the auspices of the United Nations pursuant to Security Council resolution 845 (1993) with a view to reaching agreement over the name. That was clearly manifested by

the statement made by President Crvenkovski on the same day before the General Assembly, according to which "the name of my [his] country is the Republic of Macedonia and will be the Republic of Macedonia".

We expect that henceforth the President of the General Assembly will uphold and observe the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, respect the relevant resolutions of the Organization and act in conformity with the principle of impartiality inherent in the institution of the presidency of the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) John **Mourikis**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2007/593

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 October 2007

Original: English

Fourteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Security Council resolution 1765 (2007), by which the Security Council renewed the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the French forces until 15 January 2008, expressed its intention to review the mandates of UNOCI and the French forces by 15 October and requested me to report, before that date, on the implementation of the key steps of the peace process. The report provides an update on major developments in Côte d'Ivoire since my report of 14 May 2007 (S/2007/275).

II. Security situation

2. The security situation in Côte d'Ivoire has remained generally calm since the signing of the Ouagadougou Agreement on 4 March 2007. However, an attack on an aircraft carrying Prime Minister Soro in Bouaké on 29 June created tensions and underscored the fragile state of the security situation in the country, as well as the Ouagadougou Agreement. The aircraft came under rocket fire shortly after landing at Bouaké airport, where the Prime Minister had arrived to install magistrates appointed to preside over the mobile court operations for the identification of the population. Prime Minister Soro escaped unharmed but four of his close aides were killed and several others were seriously wounded. President Gbagbo made a nationally broadcasted statement in which he strongly condemned the attack and stressed that potential spoilers would not undermine the peace process. Prime Minister Soro insisted that the ceremony to install the mobile courts magistrates should proceed on the same day, despite the attack, and pledged to continue to implement the Ouagadougou Agreement.

3. President Gbagbo requested me, in a letter dated 12 July 2007, to facilitate the establishment of an independent international inquiry into the incident, in addition to the investigation already launched at the national level. To that end, an exploratory team from relevant United Nations departments will travel to Côte d'Ivoire to collect detailed information from the Ivorian authorities, which would enable me to develop realistic options for responding to President Gbagbo's request.

07-52688 (E) 081007

4. In another serious incident, on 24 May 2007, members of the Fédération estudiantine et scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire looted the offices of two human rights organizations in Abidjan with considerable damage to property. In August, students from the same organization were involved in a number of other violent incidents, including an attack on a police station to free their comrades from lawful custody, the ransacking of the offices of a national newspaper and the hijacking of a United Nations vehicle carrying three passengers.

5. Meanwhile, the security situation in the volatile west of the country continues to improve, as the Ivorian mixed police units began their operations with support from United Nations police officers. The units provided security support for national school examinations, which were conducted throughout the country for the first time since the crisis began in 2003. The unit deployed to Zéalé conducted regular patrols of villages bordering Liberia to monitor the security situation.

6. The north of the country, which remains under the control of Forces nouvelles commanders, grew increasingly insecure owing to the continued absence of the national law enforcement agencies and a functioning justice system. Forces nouvelles elements do not receive regular salaries and continue to resort to extortion for their livelihood. Armed robberies have also been reported along the main highways. Meanwhile, the status of some 600 police auxiliaries, who were trained by United Nations police to maintain law and order in the north, is still undefined. According to the Ouagadougou Agreement, the 600 police auxiliaries from the Forces nouvelles are expected to provide security for the redeployment of State officials to the north.

7. UNOCI troops continued to conduct regular patrols along the borders with Liberia and Guinea to monitor the situation and prevent cross-border movement of weapons or armed groups. In that regard, the Mission and the United Nations Mission in Liberia carried out concurrent patrols on their respective sides of the Ivorian-Liberian border. The missions' contiguous military contingents also participated in regular coordination and information-sharing meetings on both sides of the border.

III. Political developments

8. The overall political atmosphere in Côte d'Ivoire has remained generally positive as the Ivorian parties continue to work together in implementing the Ouagadougou Agreement. President Gbagbo and the new Prime Minister, Guillaume Soro, continue to maintain a good working relationship. Reconciliation efforts also continued between the youth wings of the Young Patriots and the Forces nouvelles, culminating in a visit by the leader of the Young Patriots, Charles Blé Goudé, to the headquarters of the Forces nouvelles in Bouaké, on 10 June.

9. While the opposition political parties continue to reaffirm their support for the Ouagadougou Agreement, they have expressed concern about several issues. Reacting to a 6 August statement by President Gbagbo in which he said that national elections could take place by the end of 2007, the Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix pointed out that rushing the elections could put in jeopardy key aspects of the Agreement, especially the identification of the population.

10. On 14 August, Prime Minister Soro met with the Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix, and reassured them of his commitment to preserving the credibility of the electoral process, which he said was more important than adhering to strict deadlines. On 16 August, President Gbagbo explained that his 6 August statement was not a formal proposal concerning the date of the elections. Subsequently, on 13 September, the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, Mr. Mambé Beugré, indicated that, if the mobile courts operations were effectively launched on 25 September and last for three months, the first round of the presidential elections could be organized by October 2008.

11. In the meantime, the Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix also expressed their opposition to the termination, under Security Council resolution 1765 (2007) of the mandate of the High Representative for the elections, and wrote to the Facilitator of the Ivorian peace process, President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, requesting him to ask the Security Council to reconsider that decision. On 20 August, I sent a letter to the Facilitator, requesting him to clarify to the leaders of the Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix that Security Council resolution 1765 (2007) did not in any way diminish the role of the United Nations in certifying all stages of the electoral process. The Facilitator sent a letter to the Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix on 31 August, in which he stressed that the termination of the mandate of the High Representative for the elections had not resulted in the abolition of the role of the United Nations in certification since it was now entrusted to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire. President Compaoré also emphasized in his letter that the arbitration role, previously exercised by the High Representative for the elections, is now the prerogative of the Facilitator, who could be assisted in this regard by UNOCI, as appropriate and upon his request.

12. On 12 September, the newly appointed Special Representative of the Facilitator in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Boureima Badini, arrived in Abidjan. He immediately held a series of consultations with international partners, including the Officer-in-Charge of UNOCI, as well as with President Gbagbo and Prime Minister Soro and key Ivorian political leaders, to take stock of progress made and identify practical ways of helping to move the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement forward. In keeping with paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 1765 (2007), the United Nations is providing logistical support and close protection to the Facilitator's Special Representative.

IV. Status of implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement

13. As indicated in my report of 14 May 2007 (S/2007/275), the schedule for implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement set out the following key timelines: setting up of the integrated command centre beginning on 18 March 2007 (two weeks after the signing of the Agreement); establishment of the institutional framework for implementing the Agreement starting on 1 April (four weeks after the signing of the Agreement); formation of the new interim Government by 8 April (five weeks after the signing of the Agreement); removal of the zone of confidence and creation of the mixed police and military units beginning on 15 April (one week after the formation of the new Government); dismantling and disarmament of the militias starting on 23 April (two weeks after the formation of the new Government), to be completed within two weeks (by 7 May); cantonment of the

former fighting forces, storage of their weapons under the supervision of the impartial forces (UNOCI and the Licorne troops) and the re-establishment of State administration throughout the country and the launching of mobile court hearings, all starting by 23 April (seven weeks after the signing of the Agreement); voter registration and identification beginning on 21 May (one month after the beginning of the mobile courts hearings); unification of the two forces and enrolment of ex-combatants into the civic service programme starting on 5 June (15 days after the beginning of the voter registration process); and preparation and issuance of identity cards and voters' cards beginning once the voters register is officially adopted. The schedule envisages completion of all those tasks within a period of 10 months, that is by 4 January 2008, followed by the organization of a presidential election.

14. The implementation of the Agreement progressed well in the first three months. However, the implementation process started losing momentum in June, in particular because of the limited capacity of national institutions charged with the implementation of key tasks. In addition, Prime Minister Soro has maintained that it is more important to allow adequate time to resolve the fundamental issues at the core of the Ivorian crisis than to focus on meeting the specific deadlines stipulated in the Agreement.

15. On 11 May, the Facilitator of the Ivorian peace process convened the first meeting of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee of the Ouagadougou Agreement, comprising the representatives of President Gbagbo and Prime Minister Soro. The meeting stressed the need to accelerate the implementation of key tasks, in particular the dismantling of the militias, the disarmament of former combatants, the redeployment of State administration throughout Côte d'Ivoire and the identification of the population. The Permanent Consultative Framework of the Ouagadougou Agreement, which held its first meeting on 12 June, also called on the Prime Minister to address the delays in the implementation of the Agreement. On 4 September, the Facilitator convened the second session of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee, at which he stressed that the parties should establish and adhere to concrete timelines and benchmarks for the implementation of the Agreement. The members of the international consultative organ established by resolution 1765 (2007) also attended the meeting, and echoed the Facilitator's emphasis on setting and adhering to specific timelines to ensure that the momentum of the peace process is sustained.

A. Setting up of the integrated command centre

16. It will be recalled that the integrated command centre, which is responsible for leading the implementation of the military and security aspects of the Ouagadougou Agreement, was established on 16 April. However, it continues to face serious constraints in its operations during the period under review due to the lack of the requisite planning, logistics, personnel and financial capacity. UNOCI is providing security, logistical and technical support to the centre, so as to enable it to perform its key tasks, in particular with regard to the deployment of mixed police units in the former zone of confidence.

B. Deployment of mixed units, lifting of the zone of confidence and establishment of the green line

17. The Ouagadougou Agreement calls for the deployment of mixed police units to maintain law and order in the areas covered by the Zone of Confidence as UNOCI withdraws from the Zone. The deployment of the mixed police units was delayed and occurred gradually because of the limited capacity of the integrated command centre, the lack of logistical and financial support for the units and the challenges faced by the Forces nouvelles in deploying its personnel to the units. The integrated command centre finally completed the deployment of the six mixed units to Zéalé and Bangolo in the west, N'Gatta Dolikro and Bonoufla in the centre and Famienkro and Kokpingué in the east, on 15 September. However, the composition of the two units deployed at Famienkro and Kokpingué, in the east, is still incomplete as the Forces nouvelles personnel have yet to join those units. In addition, the Forces nouvelles personnel deployed in the rest of the units are not receiving their salaries as the issue of their ranks remains unresolved. Consequently, some of the personnel often resort to extortion.

18. With the establishment of the six mixed police units, UNOCI has deactivated its checkpoints and completed the establishment of 17 observation points along the green line which replaces the zone of confidence. However, UNOCI forces maintain a quick reaction force and capability to re-activate any of the former checkpoints at short notice, should the security situation in the former zone of confidence so demand. Given the delays encountered in lifting the zone of confidence, UNOCI, in consultation with the integrated command centre, is now revising the timelines stipulated in the Ouagadougou Agreement for the phased removal of the green line.

C. Unification of the defence and security forces

19. One of the tasks assigned to the integrated command centre under the Ouagadougou Agreement is the unification and restructuring of the armed forces of Côte d'Ivoire. No progress has been made in unifying the defence and security forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles, beyond the setting up of the integrated command centre and the mixed police units. The main obstacle is the lack of agreement between the signatories of the Ouagadougou Agreement on the ranks and number of Forces nouvelles personnel that should be absorbed in the new armed forces. Discussions on that important issue are ongoing under the auspices of the Facilitator.

D. Disarmament and dismantling of militias

20. On 19 May, President Gbagbo officially launched the dismantling of militias during a symbolic weapons destruction ceremony in Guiglo, during which militia leaders handed over 555 weapons on behalf of four armed militia groups in the west. Those weapons were in turn handed over to UNOCI. However, the integrated command centre has not put in place a structured mechanism to carry forward the disarmament and dismantling of the militias since the 19 May ceremony. In order to move the process forward, the national institutions responsible for disarmament, leaders of the armed forces, the Prime Minister's office and UNOCI met to develop

a revised concept of operations for the process. In addition, UNOCI established four sites in the western part of the country where the weapons of militias would be collected, and the Minister for Defence announced that the operation would be relaunched on 31 July and run for a period of one month. However, the operation was stalled as the Defence and Security Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles have yet to agree on the questions of the military ranks and quotas for the Forces nouvelles in the new army. Meanwhile, the Minister requested UNOCI to develop a simplified concept of operations.

E. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

21. The implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme has encountered challenges similar to those concerning the dismantling and disarmament of the militias. A ceremony was held in Bouaké on 30 July to launch the disarmament of the Forces nouvelles. President Gbagbo and six regional leaders attended the ceremony. However, as in the case of the dismantling and disarmament of the militias, the national institutions responsible, including the integrated command centre, have not taken follow-up action and the implementation of the disarmament programme has not moved forward. The main obstacle cited by the Forces nouvelles is the unresolved issue of the ranks and numbers of Forces nouvelles personnel expected to join the unified army. The Forces nouvelles have also informed UNOCI that they prefer a simplified concept of operations which would enable those eligible to join the army to do so without having to disarm, while the rest of the Forces nouvelles personnel would join the civic service programme.

22. In anticipation of the commencement of the disarmament programme, UNOCI has established an integrated implementation support cell that is co-located with the integrated command centre's disarmament, demobilization and reintegration cell in Yamoussoukro. In addition, UNOCI has begun construction of four additional cantonment sites in the northern cities of Odienné, Ferkessédougou, Ouangolodougou and Kani, as well as four weapons collection points in the western cities of Bloléquin, Toulépleu, Guiglo and Duékoué, as mentioned in paragraph 20 above, which are envisaged in the original concept of operations for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the dismantling and disarmament of the militias.

F. Restoration of State administration

23. The re-establishment of State administration throughout the country, which was to be conducted from 23 April to 22 July, has also encountered significant delays. Three important presidential decrees were signed during the period under review, appointing key civil servants to be redeployed throughout the country. The first decree, issued on 5 June, appointed 158 préfets and secretaries-general of préfectures, including four women; the second decree, on the same day, appointed magistrates for 45 jurisdictions for the planned mobile court operations; and the third decree, on 15 August, appointed 296 new sous-préfets, including one woman.

24. The Prime Minister installed the préfet for Bouaké on 18 June, but the majority of the préfets deployed in other areas returned to Abidjan immediately after

their installation because of inadequate facilities and the poor living conditions in their respective areas of responsibility. Similar challenges are facing the deployment of the newly appointed judges and sous-préfets, since in most parts of the country, the local government infrastructure is in a state of disrepair. As at 18 September, 26 préfets out of 28 had been installed in their areas of responsibility in the north, while 106 out of 296 sous-préfets had been redeployed. In addition, some 85 mayors were also re-installed in August, during a ceremony held by the Minister of Interior in Bouaké.

25. The National Commission for the Redeployment of the Administration began payment of outstanding salary and allowance arrears owed to redeployed civil servants during the period under review. As indicated in my last report, out of 24,437 civil servants displaced by the conflict, 12,343 had already returned to their posts, including 3,962 to the west and 8,381 to the north of the country. The three-month payment exercise began on 22 June, following a spate of strike actions taken by civil servants in the west and north to protest against the Government's delays in paying arrears. Meanwhile, the redeployment of the remaining 12,094 civil servants is yet to be completed, owing, in part, to a lack of adequate funding.

26. The redeployment of judicial personnel to the north of the country, beyond the magistrates expected to preside over the mobile courts operations, remains very limited. One judge and two prosecutors for the court of appeals in Bouaké were installed in June, pursuant to the 5 June presidential decree, but the remaining personnel for the courts have yet to be appointed.

G. Identification of the population and elections

27. The Ouagadougou Agreement implementation schedule envisaged that the mobile courts operations and the reconstitution of civil registers would be launched concurrently with the disarmament processes on 23 April, while the identification of the population and registration of voters would begin on 21 May. Those timelines have not been met. On 28 June, Prime Minister Soro established a working group on the mobile courts operations and the reconstruction of destroyed or lost registers, and created a second working group on identification to work out the necessary arrangements for those key processes. However, the working groups only started working in August, after the Prime Minister announced that the mobile courts operations would begin in early September.

28. On 4 September, the second meeting of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee, chaired by President Compaoré, called for the mobile court operations to begin by the end of September. On 11 and 12 September, the working groups and the Prime Minister discussed the modus operandi and security arrangements for the mobile courts operations and announced that operations would begin on 25 September. On 24 September, the Working Group on mobile courts agreed on the modus operandi for the mobile courts operations. On 25 September, the Minister for Justice officially launched the mobile courts operations in two jurisdictions: Ouragahio, in the west, and Ferkéssedougou, in the north. UNOCI assisted in transporting the mobile court teams to Ferkéssedougou and dispatched observation teams to the two sites. However, in view of the lack of adequate sensitization which resulted in low turnout at the two sites, the mobile courts operations were suspended in order to allow more time for the necessary preparations.

29. The appointment of judges and préfets mentioned in paragraph 18 above represents an important preliminary step in the preparation for the identification of the population and the elaboration of the voter roll. In their role as chairpersons of local commissions for the supervision of identification, the sous-préfets serve as guarantors of the credibility of the process. The appointment of new judges on 5 July makes it possible to launch mobile courts operations in 63 jurisdictions, covering the entire country.

H. Voter registration

30. Delays in the launching of the identification of the population prevent the beginning of the related voter registration process. Nonetheless, the Independent Electoral Commission has taken some steps towards preparing for the elections. In order to enhance the transparency of the electoral process, the Commission presented to the political parties a CD-ROM containing the voter roll used for the 2000 national elections, for their review and comment. However, other key steps are still outstanding, including the formulation of an operational strategy for the reconstitution of civil registers, the designation of a technical operator for identification and the establishment of regional and local structures of the Independent Electoral Commission. While UNOCI has assisted the Commission to train all regional commissioners, the appointment and training of personnel for commissions at the departmental and sous-préfecture levels remain outstanding. Meanwhile, as requested by the Security Council in its resolution 1765 (2007), UNOCI has established a small support cell, which will assist my Special Representative in the certification of all stages of the electoral process.

I. Financial support for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement

31. During a donors' round table convened by Prime Minister Soro on 18 July, the international partners of Côte d'Ivoire pledged approximately $388 million in support of the Government's post-conflict recovery programme. The pledged funds exceeded the funding needs for the implementation of the peace agreement by some $136 million. The United Nations worked with the Office of the Prime Minister to establish appropriate disbursement mechanisms and, in that regard, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will establish and manage a basket fund for the "Programme de sortie de crise", pursuant to a formal request by the Prime Minister on 16 August 2007. UNDP is also in the process of formally establishing a basket fund to receive contributions for the organization of the elections, whose costs are estimated at $80 million.

32. In addition, an assistance package in the amount of $700,000 was approved under the emergency window of the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund in order to support the Government of Burkina Faso in its ongoing facilitation efforts. UNOCI and UNDP will jointly implement the support project over the course of six months.

V. Deployment of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

A. Military component

33. As at 15 September, the military strength of UNOCI stood at 8,039 personnel, comprising 7,755 troops, 192 military observers and 92 staff officers, against a total authorized strength of 8,115. Of the Mission's 11 battalions, five are deployed in the western part of the country, four in the east and two in Abidjan. One aviation unit, three engineering companies, one transport company and one special force company are providing enabling capacity and operational reserve to the force. A total of 14 light infantry companies and three mechanized companies are deployed in Sector West, while 10 light infantry companies, one armoured company and an aviation unit are deployed in Sector East. The Sous-Groupement de Sécurité, comprising 279 personnel, provides close protection for members of Government and other dignitaries.

34. In my last report, I recommended that UNOCI conduct a troop-to-task analysis with a view to determining how the mission would redeploy from the former zone of confidence and reinforce its presence in the western and northern parts of the country. In that regard, it is envisaged that two new camps will be established in Divo and Issia, as troops are redeployed from the former zone of confidence.

35. With regard to the Security Council's intention to review the mandate and troop level of UNOCI by 15 October, it will be recalled that, in my 14 May report (S/2007/275), I proposed that progress on two key benchmarks, namely, completion of the disarmament and demobilization process as well as the completion of the restoration of State administration throughout the country, would trigger the initial adjustments in the Mission's mandate and troop levels. However, progress on those benchmarks has been very limited, as indicated in paragraphs 20 to 26 above. It is, therefore, essential to maintain current UNOCI troop levels and conduct a further review at the time of submission of my next report.

36. In the meantime, the Licorne force that provides critical support to UNOCI reduced its presence in Côte d'Ivoire by 1,000 troops in two phases in May and August 2007. With that troop reduction, Licorne closed its bases in the west in May and in Yamoussoukro in September. However, French forces continue to patrol in the whole area of operation and maintain their full quick reaction capacity, in keeping with the protocol signed by UNOCI and Licorne Force commanders in December 2005.

B. Police component

37. As at 15 September, 1,098 police personnel were deployed to UNOCI, against an authorized ceiling of 1,200, including 348 officers and 750 personnel in formed police units. The UNOCI police component includes 25 female officers.

38. The UNOCI police component provides support, mentoring and advice to the Ivorian national police and the mixed police units responsible for securing the former zone of confidence. The United Nations police also has an important role with respect to training auxiliaries deployed to the north and the overall reform of

the security sector. In the context of the overall restoration of state authority, United Nations police are assisting in the redeployment of the Ivorian law enforcement personnel to the north. Accordingly, a formed police unit currently stationed in Abidjan will be moved to Boundiali, in the north-west of the country. A team site in Sakassou will be redeployed to Daoukro, as will a station from Danane to Boundiali.

VI. Human rights and the rule of law

A. Human rights situation

39. While serious human rights violations in the country have decreased since the signing of the Ouagadougou Agreement, the general human rights situation continued to be characterized by abuses inflicted on civilians by the Government's defence and security forces and Forces nouvelles elements, including intimidation, arbitrary arrest and detention, and racketeering at checkpoints. Reports were received about the excessive use of force by elements of the defence and security forces in Abidjan, Yamoussoukro, Toumodi, Duékoué and elsewhere.

40. During the period under review, UNOCI also received reports of trafficking of children for labour and prostitution in the south, and torture and ill-treatment committed by Forces nouvelles elements and Dozo traditional hunters in the north. In the meantime, in Daloa, in the west of the country, the first jury trial since the start of the crisis concluded during the reporting period, and found 11 of 21 defendants guilty of participating in the 2005 ethnically motivated massacre of 71 inhabitants of the Petit Duékoué and Guitrozon villages in the south-west of the country.

41. Human trafficking for forced prostitution and labour is a growing problem in Côte d'Ivoire. In May, the Ministry of Family, Women and Social Affairs, the judicial police, the International Organization for Migration, and several national and international organizations adopted an anti-trafficking programme to reinforce national capacity to investigate and respond to cases and provide victims with legal protection. In that regard, investigations were conducted into a network that traffics women and girls from the subregion, a case involving 25 women from the Philippines who claimed to have fallen victim to traffickers, and the circumstances surrounding the presence in the country of several Ghanaian children with unrelated adults.

42. The National Human Rights Commission, which was established in January, elected Victorine Wodié, a former Minister for Human Rights, as its President in July. UNOCI and the Commission will collaborate closely to promote and protect human rights in Côte d'Ivoire. Meanwhile, a technical review is under way of a draft national action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights that had been prepared by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights with support from the Mission.

43. UNOCI also continued to advocate the consideration of children's rights in the implementation of the peace process, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1460 (2003) and 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict. In that regard, my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, who visited the country from 4 to 7 September, impressed upon national authorities the importance

of establishing protective measures for children during the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement. In an encouraging development, the Forces nouvelles, which in 2005 committed themselves to implementing an action plan to end the use of child soldiers, submitted to UNOCI a progress report on the final stage of its implementation in August. A total of 85 children associated with the fighting forces had been identified, including 27 girls. In the west of the country, the United Nations Children Fund's (UNICEF) provided assistance to 204 children, including 84 girls, associated with the militias.

44. Pursuant to the amnesty ordinance issued on 12 April, 61 Ivorian detainees, including 40 civilians and 21 military personnel, were released in Abidjan. Seven persons detained in Korhogo and a person detained in Bouaké were also released. During a ceremony held in Bouaké on 26 June, the Forces nouvelles released three prisoners of war. In granting amnesty to prisoners, the political and military leadership stressed that the intention was to consolidate the peace process, rather than condone past misdeeds. At the same time, the amnesty ordinance fails to explicitly exclude war crimes and crimes against humanity, and is therefore not in accordance with both the Ouagadougou Agreement and the obligations of Côte d'Ivoire under applicable norms of international law.

B. Judicial and corrections systems

45. In June, the Mission published two reports focused on the Ivorian justice system and on juvenile justice, both of which contained recommendations on how the Government could improve the management, impartiality and accountability of the judiciary. Discussions began between the Government and the European Union on a five-year financial assistance package that will require the Government to make commitments in the areas of democratic governance, rule of law and anti-corruption.

46. The prison workers union held its third strike since 2001, from 25 July to 3 August, to protest the failure of the Government to improve conditions of service. The strike affected all 22 prisons in the Government-controlled zone, and was only called off after the Minister for Justice and Human Rights agreed to meet the union's demand to bring salaries and conditions of service in line with those of the police and other agencies. Meanwhile, UNOCI continued to monitor the conditions of detention at prisons throughout the country, many of which are overcrowded with inadequate health and sanitation facilities.

VII. Humanitarian situation

47. During the reporting period, the Ministry of Solidarity and Victims of War developed an assisted return programme for persons displaced by the war and drafted an ordinance on the indemnification of victims of war which has yet to be signed. The Minister also conducted a visit to areas of return in the west to sensitize the communities to the forthcoming return process. In the meantime, many internally displaced persons declined to return to their communities owing to insecurity and the absence of a legal framework for claiming occupied homes and properties.

48. For its part, the humanitarian community in Côte d'Ivoire continued to work to facilitate the return of displaced persons to their areas of origin. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reinforced its presence in Guiglo, the Duékoué corridor and the area around Zou. Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, the humanitarian agencies and their partners intensified monitoring and "go and see" visits in villages of return in Zou, to pave the way for voluntary returns in safety and dignity. My Special Representative on the Human Rights for Internally Displaced Persons, Mr. Walter Kälin, also visited the country for six days in June.

49. The mid-year review of the Consolidated Appeal Process, launched during the reporting period, focused on identifying and responding to the needs of displaced and other vulnerable persons, as well as host communities and communities of return. The review determined that the outstanding financial requirements for humanitarian activities could be reduced by 50 per cent, bringing the total requirements down to $51.5 million for 2007. I encourage donors to consider providing support to close the remaining funding gap of $37.5 million. In the meantime, I am pleased that the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator announced in August the allocation of $2.5 million from the Central Emergency Relief Fund for humanitarian programmes in Côte d'Ivoire. In August, the World Food Programme also launched an 18-month protracted relief and recovery operation, which aims to provide assistance to a million people affected by conflict through school feeding, food for work and training, as well as targeted nutrition programmes. On 20 and 21 September, in collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Government officials, NGOs and representatives from the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Coordination Committee, the Humanitarian Coordinator launched the Consolidated Appeal Process for 2008, which focused on strict humanitarian-related matters in the west in order to complement the Government's Programme de sortie de crise.

VIII. Economic recovery

50. Côte d'Ivoire's economic growth is forecasted to reach 1.5 per cent in real terms. Preliminary data for the first half of 2007 suggest that that is achievable. The forecast for public sector finances and the proposed 2007 budget are based on prudent macroeconomic estimates. Data for the first half of the year are in line with the full-year budget.

51. Relations between the Government, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are being regularized. The first segment of the Fund's Emergency post-conflict assistance programme of $60 million was disbursed early in August. The Bank's post-conflict assistance programme of $120 million in support of the Government's emergency recovery programme was also made effective in early August, although there are conditions the Government will need to fulfil before the funds can be disbursed. Furthermore, the Government is on track to settle arrears owed to the World Bank and the African Development Bank. The Government and the World Bank plan to carry out an arrears clearance operation in early 2008. That will allow a full Bank programme, including the reactivation of its existing portfolio totalling $104 million, a new HIV/AIDS grant of $20 million and a governance operation of $15 million, along with additional support anticipated from IMF and the African Development Bank.

52. On the programmatic front, the United Nations Development Group Office and the World Bank have sent to Abidjan two post-conflict needs assessment experts to undertake a desk review of existing documentation available with the European Union, the United Nations and the World Bank, and to establish a time-bound workplan and possible needs to be addressed.

IX. Media monitoring and public information

53. During the reporting period, UNOCI continued its efforts to promote an improved media environment. In addition to regular contacts with the Ministry of Communication and the national media regulatory bodies, the Mission conducted seminars with local and international partners for more than 120 print and broadcast journalists on responsible reporting of the elections and the peace process in general. The Mission also began discussions with the national programme for the redeployment of the administration on the elaboration of a joint media strategy to facilitate the redeployment exercise.

54. The Mission strengthened its communications campaign to ensure that the Ivorian population is well informed about the peace process and the Mission's supportive role in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement. In that regard, UNOCI initiated a number of sensitization activities to promote the peace process, including a peace caravan that visited schools in Abidjan, town hall meetings and reconciliation forums with traditional chiefs in areas where ethnic tensions have been prevalent, particularly in the west. Meanwhile, the Mission's radio station, ONUCI FM, continued to provide information on the peace process through its news and other programmes.

X. Gender

55. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, UNOCI continued to impress upon Ivorian parties their responsibility for ensuring the full participation of women in the implementation of the peace process. The Mission supported in particular the efforts of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Women and Family to advocate a 30 per cent quota for women in the political and public arena.

XI. HIV/AIDS

56. UNOCI also continued to mainstream HIV/AIDS awareness in the Mission's activities. Since my last report, 39 civilian and 1,533 military personnel have participated in HIV/AIDS awareness training and 194 peer educators have been trained to conduct sensitization exercises within their respective battalions. Voluntary counselling and testing services have been provided for 1,635 Mission personnel. UNOCI, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and UNDP collaborated to produce 5,000 brochures and 52 post-exposure prophylaxis kits that have been made available to all United Nations staff members.

XII. Personnel conduct and discipline

57. In my last report, I referred to allegations by civil society groups of cases of misconduct by some United Nations troops based in Abidjan. The complainants retracted their allegations during the conduct of investigations. However, further allegations were received concerning widespread sexual exploitation and abuse by UNOCI military personnel deployed in the Bouaké area. A preliminary assessment by the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the UNOCI Conduct and Discipline Team determined that the allegations warranted further investigations. The troop contributing country concerned sent a team to Côte d'Ivoire to conduct further investigations in collaboration with the Office. Meanwhile, the contingent concerned remains confined to its camp except for essential duties, pending the outcome of the investigation. The investigation was suspended in August due to the inability of the joint team to obtain access to the alleged victims. Consultations are ongoing with a view to resuming the investigation as soon as possible.

58. The Mission continues to work towards full compliance with my zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. In that regard, 5,538 UNOCI personnel, including 3,031 military and 1,832 civilian personnel, have to date received mandatory training on the United Nations standards of conduct. The Mission's Conduct and Discipline Team also conducted fact-finding exercises during the reporting period to observe the behaviour of personnel throughout the Mission's area of responsibility. Based on the team's findings, a series of recommendations were prepared and presented to the Officer-in-Charge, who instructed the Force Commander to ensure that they are implemented. Among the new measures being implemented is a further restriction on the movement of military personnel.

XIII. Observations

59. The positive political atmosphere that has prevailed in Côte d'Ivoire since the signing of the Ouagadougou Agreement gives the Ivorian parties the opportunity to make concrete progress towards its implementation. I am deeply concerned that the failure to adhere to the timelines set out in the Agreement has led to a slackening of momentum which, if it continues, could undermine successful implementation. The overall peace process and the improved security situation will remain fragile and vulnerable to reversals unless it is underpinned by concrete progress, especially in the implementation of the crucial tasks related to the disarmament and dismantling of militias, the disarmament of combatants, the identification of the population, the restoration of State authority throughout the country, the preparation of the voter register, the unification of the two armed forces and respect for human rights. I therefore urge Prime Minister Soro and President Gbagbo to take the necessary measures to give added impetus to the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement, including by reverting to specific implementation timelines, providing requisite resources to the integrated command centre and mixed units, resolving the military ranks issue, unifying the two forces and completing the processes to dismantle the militias and achieve disarmament and rendering the new National Human Rights Commission operational.

60. I commend the international partners of Côte d'Ivoire for their overwhelming response to the Government's appeal for funding for the implementation of the

Ouagadougou Agreement and for the post-conflict recovery. The onus is now on the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to do its part and accelerate the implementation process. At the same time, the national institutions tasked with leading the implementation process require increased support from the international partners, especially in the areas of logistical support and capacity-building. I call on the Member States to extend the necessary assistance to those institutions, especially the integrated command centre and the mixed units.

61. The continuing human rights abuses, albeit at lower levels of intensity than prior to the signing of the Ouagadougou Agreement, are extremely disturbing. The leadership of the Forces nouvelles and the command of the defence and security forces of Côte d'Ivoire have an obligation to address those problems and to ensure discipline among their personnel. I also urge the Government to dismantle the militias in the west and in Abidjan without further delay, and to enforce the law against the leaders and members of the so-called student groups that intimidate and carry out acts of violence against civilians and civil society organizations and United Nations personnel and property.

62. The attack against Prime Minister Soro, which occurred at a time when efforts were under way to accelerate the peace process, undermined the positive atmosphere engendered by the Ouagadougou Agreement. I once more strongly condemn the attack and commend the determination shown by the President and the Prime Minister to stay the course in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement despite that serious attempt to disrupt the peace process.

63. I would like to assure the Ivorian people and parties of the continued support of UNOCI. In that regard, I also wish to assure the parties of the political opposition that Security Council resolution 1765 (2007) preserves the full role of the United Nations in certifying the electoral process. The resolution simply transferred the role from the High Representative for the elections to my Special Representative, without diminishing it.

64. Despite the devastation it has suffered from the conflict, Côte d'Ivoire remains critical to the economic stability and security of the subregion. I therefore encourage the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to continue to work closely with UNOCI in supporting the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement. The Facilitator of the Ivorian peace process, President Compaoré of Burkina Faso, should be congratulated for the crucial role he is playing in facilitating the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement. I call upon Member States to contribute the necessary funding for his facilitation efforts, including by providing support to the Office of his Special Representative in Abidjan.

65. In the meantime, I recommend that the troop levels of UNOCI be maintained at current levels as the benchmarks identified in my 14 May report (S/2007/275) have yet to be met. I will provide further recommendations in that regard in my January 2008 report.

66. In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the Officer-in-Charge of UNOCI, Abou Moussa, and all UNOCI military and civilian personnel for their continued commitment to supporting the peace process. I would also like to pay tribute to President Compaoré for his tireless facilitation efforts. Finally, I thank all troop and police contributing countries; ECOWAS; the African Union; United Nations agencies, funds and programmes; humanitarian organizations; multilateral and bilateral donors; and international and local non-governmental organizations, for their important contributions to the pursuit of peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

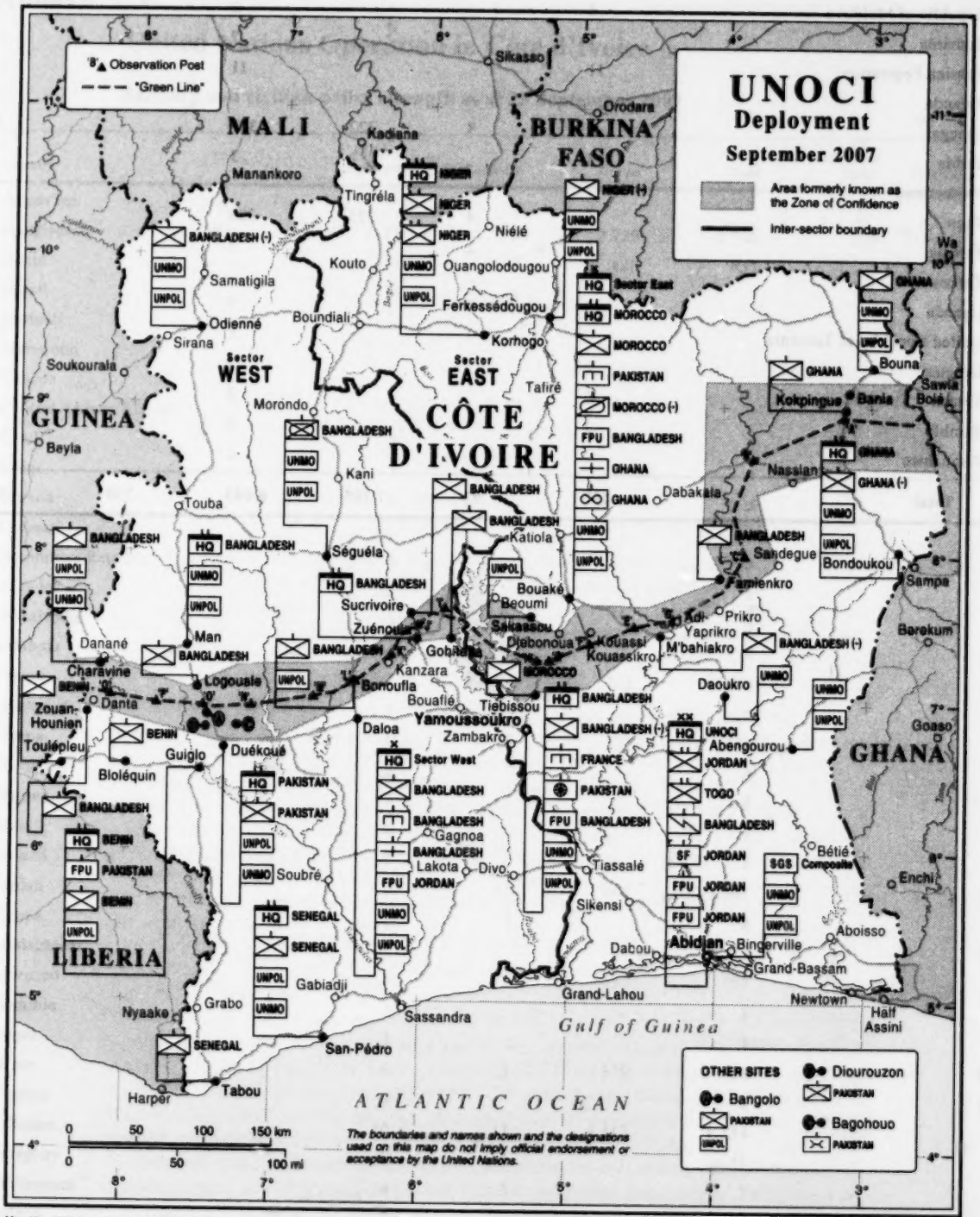
Annex

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Military and civilian police strength as at 25 September 2007

Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed Police Units*	*Civilian police*
Argentina						3
Bangladesh	11	9	2 720	2 740	250	1
Benin	8	9	420	437		38
Brazil	4	3		7		
Burundi						14
Cameroon						54
Canada						2
Central African Republic						1
Chad	3			3		6
China	4			4		
Croatia	3			3		
Djibouti						29
Dominican Republic	4			4		
Ecuador	2			2		
El Salvador	3			3		1
Ethiopia	4			4		
France	2	11	173	186		10
Guatemala	5			5		
Ghana	6	7	531	544		5
Gambia	3			3		
Guinea	3			3		
India	8			8		2
Ireland	2			2		
Jordan	7	11	1 049	1 067	375	4
Kenya	5	3		8		
Madagascar						12
Morocco	1	3	733	737		
Namibia	3			3		
Nepal	3			3		
Niger	6	3	379	388		49
Nigeria	8			8		11
Pakistan	10	11	1 113	1 134	125	2
Paraguay	9	2		11		
Philippines	4	3		7		3
Poland	2			2		

Republic of Moldova	3			3		
Romania	7			7		
Russian Federation	11			11		
Rwanda						14
Senegal	8	8	322	338		74
Serbia	3			3		
Switzerland						2
Togo	6	4	315	325		1
Tunisia	5	2		7		
Turkey						4
Uganda	5	2		7		
United Republic of Tanzania		1		1		
Uruguay	2			2		4
Yemen	5			5		5
Zambia	2			2		
Zimbabwe	2			2		
Total	**192**	**92**	**7 755**	**8 043**	**750**	**348**



Map No. 4220 Rev. 19 UNITED NATIONS
September 2007

Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Cartographic Section

United Nations A/62/471–S/2007/594

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 October 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 5 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

As already documented in the 2006 report outlining the achievements of the United Nations Mine Action Service (A/62/307), over 1 million unexploded cluster bombs were left by Israel in the aftermath of its war against Lebanon in the summer of 2006, in blatant violation of both humanitarian and international law. Those bombs have contaminated 34.2 million square metres of Lebanese territory.

As a result, Lebanese civilians face death on a daily basis. By the end of the summer, more than 233 Lebanese civilians had fallen victim to Israeli cluster bombs, many of whom were children. A 6-year-old child, Ali Dakdouk, was the latest victim of those deadly bombs. Little Ali was killed yesterday, 4 October, in Sultaniyya on his way to his first day of school. Ali's first day of school fatally became his last.

Israel's persistent refusal to give the United Nations the maps which indicate where it dropped the cluster bombs is an additional flagrant violation of both humanitarian and international law, since the remaining unexploded bombs represent a continuous threat to the safety and security of the Lebanese civilian population.

My Government reaffirms its commitment to end the scourge of cluster bombs and shall not spare any effort to reach an international ban on those ugly weapons.

Upon instructions of my Government, I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 17.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-53231 (E) 081007

United Nations A/62/472–S/2007/595

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 October 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 22
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 5 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to the letter dated 9 August 2007 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to you, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 1 August to 27 September 2007, as follows:

On 1 August 2007, three CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 6 August 2007, two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 7 August 2007, two F-16, two Cougar and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 8 August 2007, four Cougar and two B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 9 August 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 13 August 2007, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations.

On 14 August 2007, one CN-235 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

07-53260 (E) 111007

On 15 August 2007, four CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 16 August 2007, four F-16 and six CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus six times.

On 17 August 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 18 August 2007, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 20 August 2007, two CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 21 August 2007, four F-16 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus once.

On 22 August 2007, two B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 23 August 2007, one MI-17 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 24 August 2007, one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type coming from a Turkish frigate violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 27 August 2007, two F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus once.

On 28 August 2007, four Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 30 August 2007, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 5 September 2007, two C-130 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 6 September 2007, two Cougar and two F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 8 September 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 11 September 2007, four F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 12 September 2007, two B-200 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 13 September 2007, two Cougar and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 15 September 2007, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 19 September 2007, two C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 20 September 2007, three CN-235 and two F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 24 September 2007, two F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 25 September 2007, one CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus once.

On 26 September 2007, two Cougar, two B-200 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 27 September 2007, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I strongly protest the aforementioned violations, which, as indicated in our previous communications, blatantly endanger the safety of international civil aviation and contravene international law and air traffic regulations. These violations put at stake the peace and stability of the region, and I call for their immediate cessation.

Such policies and actions provide ample demonstration of the irresponsible behaviour of a country that otherwise aspires to assume a non-permanent seat of the Security Council. The Government of Turkey should heed the call of the international community, abide by the Charter of the United Nations and respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, thus contributing to the creation of the required conditions for the achievement of a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas D. **Mavroyiannis**

United Nations S/2007/596

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 October 2007

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), by which the Council requested me to report every 30 days on the implementation of paragraph 5 of the resolution, which sets the following benchmarks for the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID):

(a) No later than October 2007, UNAMID shall establish an initial operating capability for its headquarters and establish financial arrangements to cover troop costs for all personnel deployed to the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS);

(b) As of October 2007, UNAMID shall have completed preparations to assume operational command authority over the light support package, personnel currently deployed to AMIS and heavy support package and hybrid personnel as may be deployed by the date of transfer of authority;

(c) No later than 31 December 2007, UNAMID shall assume authority from AMIS.

The report covers steps taken towards those goals during the month of September 2007.

II. Headquarters operating capability

2. In addition to the deployment of those senior personnel identified in my first report on the implementation of UNAMID (S/2007/517 and Corr.1), the African Union and the United Nations have been moving forward with the identification and recruitment of key UNAMID personnel who will constitute its initial operating capability. The appointment of Major General Karake Karenzi (Rwanda) as Deputy Force Commander of UNAMID was approved by the two organizations. The African Union and the United Nations have held joint interviews for the position of UNAMID Police Commissioner and are in the process of finalizing the selection for this post. It is anticipated that the UNAMID Police Commissioner will be recruited

07-52599 (E) 091007

in October. The two organizations are also in the process of developing a shortlist for the position of UNAMID Chief of Staff.

III. African Union Mission in the Sudan and United Nations support

3. With the assistance of strategic airlift from AMIS partners, the rotation of AMIS troops is proceeding on schedule. The first AMIS battalions are planned to rotate within the first two weeks of October. This rotation will include the deployment at the end of October of two additional AMIS battalions, from Nigeria and Rwanda, which are required for the protection of heavy support package assets and personnel. The full rotation of AMIS troops will occur from October through December 2007.

4. United Nations military and police officers in the light and heavy support packages have been holding regular consultations with AMIS to identify and address all issues related to the transition from AMIS to UNAMID. To this end, light support and heavy support package officers in Darfur have co-located with their AMIS counterparts to facilitate their work.

5. Preparations for the deployment of heavy support package enabling units are in progress and the first engineering unit from China is expected to deploy to Nyala in mid-October. All reconnaissance visits have been completed, and negotiations on a memorandum of understanding have been held with half of the heavy support package troop-contributing countries. Pre-deployment inspection visits have been scheduled for October and November.

6. With respect to the deployment of formed police units in the heavy support package, Bangladesh, Nepal and Nigeria have now completed their reconnaissance visits to Khartoum and Darfur. The reconnaissance teams have returned to their home countries to commence preparations for deployment. The pre-deployment inspection visit to Bangladesh has also been completed, and the formed police unit from that country is expected to arrive in Darfur in mid-October. As the first police contributor scheduled to deploy a formed police unit to UNAMID, Indonesia has also completed its reconnaissance visit, and a pre-deployment visit is being scheduled.

IV. Force and personnel generation

7. The third meeting of troop- and police-contributing countries for UNAMID was held in New York on 19 September, co-chaired jointly by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Permanent Observer of the African Union. The meeting highlighted those areas in which contributions are still outstanding, namely, aviation and heavy ground transportation, and requested potential troop and police contributors to make additional pledges in that regard. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations reiterated the United Nations commitment to maintaining the predominantly African character of the operation, while emphasizing the need to deploy a force which could effectively implement the mandate set out in resolution 1769 (2007). No additional troop or police contributions were pledged during the meeting.

8. Three African Union officials have arrived in New York to work with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on force generation and other issues pertaining to the deployment of UNAMID. The three officials — a military officer, a police officer and a senior political affairs official — will be in New York for a period of six months.

9. On 18 September 2007, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations forwarded to the Permanent Mission of the Sudan a list of troop-contributing countries jointly agreed upon by the United Nations and the African Union for participation in UNAMID. The list reflects offers from troop-contributing countries for the following requirements: eight infantry units, two multi-role logistics units, two reconnaissance companies, one composite transport unit, one force headquarters unit, one military police unit, three sector reserve companies, one force reserve company and one level II hospital. Subsequently, the African Union and the United Nations agreed on the list of troop-contributing countries for all remaining requirements for which troop-contributing countries had made pledges, and submitted it to the Government of the Sudan on 2 October.

V. Logistical arrangements

10. A meeting of the African Union, the United Nations and AMIS partners was held in Addis Ababa on 7 September with the aim of resolving the status of those assets which partner countries had donated to the AMIS operation. All parties agreed that partner-funded assets would be transferred to the United Nations for use by UNAMID. It was further agreed that the United Nations would transfer those assets to the African Union at the end of the UNAMID mandate. Currently, a United Nations team is in Darfur conducting a physical inspection of AMIS assets and equipment to ascertain the self-sustainment capability and condition of equipment on the ground in Darfur in preparation for the transfer of authority to UNAMID on 31 December 2007.

11. Strategic deployment stocks and other critical mission support assets are being pre-positioned in El Obeid, the UNAMID forward logistics base. The base is being expanded to support the UNAMID induction training programme as well as transit facilities for 750 individuals.

12. The sole-source contract for camp construction and support services for the initial four UNAMID camps in Nyala, El Fasher, Geneina and Zalingei has been completed and is awaiting final approval. The United Nations is continuing its efforts with the Government of the Sudan to resolve the outstanding issues pertaining to land agreements, use of heavy aircraft and permission to conduct night flying throughout all three Darfur States.

VI. Administrative and legal arrangements

13. A number of strategic and legal documents, including the military command directive for the Force Commander of UNAMID, the UNAMID rules of engagement, the directive for the Police Commissioner of UNAMID and the directive on detention, searches and use of force for the formed police units of UNAMID were finalized jointly and signed by the African Union and the United

Nations on 25 and 26 September. Additional legal documents, such as the status-of-forces agreement and the exchange of letters between the African Union and the United Nations, are being finalized. As indicated in my previous report, the exchange of letters articulates the legal terms of the African Union-United Nations partnership in Darfur in order to ensure the application of United Nations rules, regulations and procedures.

VII. Financial arrangements

14. The complete budget for UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 has been finalized and will be submitted to the General Assembly on 1 October 2007.

15. The reimbursement of AMIS troops, as required by paragraph 5 (a) of resolution 1769 (2007), is set to begin in October 2007.

VIII. High-level consultation on Darfur

16. On 21 September, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Alpha Oumar Konaré, and I chaired a high-level meeting on Darfur with a view to mobilizing support for the international community's three-track approach to a lasting solution to that crisis: securing a political solution, deploying the African Union-United Nations peacekeeping operation, and providing humanitarian and recovery assistance to civilians affected by the conflict. The meeting was attended by representatives of 26 States, including the Sudan, the permanent members of the Security Council, members of the African Union Peace and Security Council and other countries of the region. High-level officials from the European Union and the League of Arab States also attended. The meeting was a powerful illustration of the international community's commitment to working with the Sudanese to achieve peace in Darfur.

17. Participants in the meeting confirmed their support for the forthcoming peace talks in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, scheduled to begin on 27 October, and expressed strong expectations that the negotiations would be inclusive and decisive. I also announced the creation of a trust fund to provide financial support for the talks, and I urged Member States to contribute to the fund. At the meeting, the African Union and the United Nations also appealed for support for their efforts to meet outstanding peacekeeping requirements for UNAMID, reaffirming their commitment to ensure the deployment of an effective operation with a predominantly African character. Participants in the meeting also stressed the importance of establishing an effective ceasefire monitoring mechanism, and emphasized that peace in all of the Sudan depended on continued efforts to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

IX. Observations

18. The implementation timeline for UNAMID is being delayed owing to the challenges encountered in efforts to obtain land for the construction of UNAMID offices and accommodation in Darfur, as well as delays in obtaining feedback

regarding the list of troop-contributing countries submitted to the Government of the Sudan. It is of critical importance that the Government extend the support and cooperation necessary to resolve the issues pertaining to land, landing rights for United Nations aircraft and the finalization of the list of troop-contributing countries for UNAMID.

19. I remain extremely concerned about the continuing violence in Darfur. The ongoing loss of life and displacement of civilians is unacceptable and is not contributing to an atmosphere conducive to the peace talks which are to be held in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. I deplore in particular the brazen and brutal attacks, by as yet unidentified armed groups, on the AMIS group site in Haskanita, Southern Darfur, which were carried out on 29 and 30 September. Ten AMIS personnel were killed and 12 were wounded during the attack. One was still missing at the time of writing. The perpetrators of the attack must be identified and held fully accountable. This incident confirms that the African Union-United Nations force which will be deployed to Darfur must be sufficiently robust to defend itself from spoilers and protect civilians from attack. In the meantime, the African Union, with support from the United Nations, is investigating the attack, and AMIS is making contingency plans and reassessing the security situation in the area with a view to redeploying to Haskanita as soon as possible.

20. The brutal attack on the AMIS group site follows a series of other violent incidents in Haskanita, including aerial bombardments involving Government helicopter gunships, and military clashes on the ground between Government and rebel forces on 10 and 11 September. The United Nations and the African Union are also in the process of confirming reports that fighting between rebels and Government forces supported by militias occurred on the morning of 29 September.

21. I reiterate my appeal to all parties to recommit themselves in good faith, as a matter of the highest priority, to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and to observe an immediate cessation of hostilities. In this regard, I am encouraged by the statement made by President Al-Bashir during his recent visit to Italy, in which he indicated that his Government would observe a ceasefire in Darfur upon the commencement of the peace talks. I am concerned, however, by the statement made on 25 September by the leader of the Justice and Equality Movement, Khalil Ibrahim, that he would continue fighting during the peace talks and until a final settlement was reached.

22. In the meantime, preparations for the peace negotiations are ongoing. The fragmentation and lack of unity among the movements continue to be a cause of concern, and the Special Envoys, Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim, are working with all parties to assist them in their preparations for the talks. To that end, the Joint Mediation Support Team met with a number of representatives of the non-signatory movements on 19 and 20 September in N'Djamena. The main objective was to reach agreement on a common delegation for the talks. This did not prove possible, and the Special Envoys are continuing their consultations with the parties in this regard. The Special Envoys also intend to organize specific workshops 10 days prior to the beginning of the negotiations to provide targeted support to both the Government of the Sudan and the movements' delegations.

23. Other issues currently being discussed with the parties include the agenda, format and structure for the talks, as well as the parties' positions on the key issues to be discussed, namely, security arrangements, power-sharing and wealth-sharing.

It is paramount that the parties now show seriousness and commitment and enter the negotiation process well prepared and in earnest so as to reach a final negotiated settlement to the conflict as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the Special Envoys are also intensifying their consultations with civil society, traditional leaders, representatives of internally displaced persons and women's groups to ensure that the process is inclusive and enjoys the broad support of the population in Darfur.

24. The United Nations and the African Union have laboured hard on the peacekeeping, ceasefire and political tracks to give concrete expression to the will and strategy agreed on by the international community in Addis Ababa in November 2006. However, if these processes are to succeed, it is essential for all actors, including the Government of the Sudan, the rebel movements, neighbouring countries, regional organizations, troop and police contributors and the States Members of the United Nations, to translate words into deeds. For UNAMID to deploy and be effective, for a ceasefire to take place and hold, and for the political negotiations to begin and bear fruit, all must play their respective parts.

United Nations A/62/476–S/2007/597

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 October 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 5 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations from 24 to 30 September 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-53638 (E) 111007 151007

Annex to the identical letters dated 5 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical summary of Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities between 24 and 30 September 2007

Air violations

On 24 September, between 1504 and 1610 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Killa flying north as far as Shikka, circled between the South, Shikka and the Bekaa and then departed over Rumaysh.

Between 1944 and 2000 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Naqurah flying north as far as Jubayl, then departed over Rumaysh.

Between 2008 and 2130 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Naqurah flying north and circled between Beirut, the South, the Bekaa and Shikka, then departed over Rumaysh.

Between 2114 and 2345 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre, circled off Sidon and Tyre then departed over the sea off Naqurah.

On 25 September 2007, between 0940 and 1210 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b and circled over areas of Riyaq, Baalbek and the South, then departed over Rumaysh.

Between 1345 and 1450 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Killa and circled over areas of Shikka, the Bekaa, Beirut and the South, then departed over Rumaysh.

Between 1915 and 2145 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre and circled over the South, then departed over Rumaysh.

On 26 September 2007, between 0115 and 0300 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b and circled over areas of Shikka, Beirut and the South, then departed over the sea off Naqurah.

Between 1100 and 1210 hours, four (4) enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh flying north and circled over areas of the South, then departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 1105 and 1240 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Killa and circled over areas of Shikka and al-Arz, then departed over Naqurah.

On 27 September 2007, between 0950 and 1020 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Killa flying north as far as Jabb Janin and circled over areas of Jubb Janin, Rashayya and Hasbayya, then departed over Rumaysh.

Between 1155 and 1325 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Killa flying north and circled between Shikka and the South, then departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

On 28 September 2007, between 0135 and 0145 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Juniyah flying east as far as the coast of Juniyah, then headed south and departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 0150 and 0310 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Naqurah flying north and circled between Beirut and the South, then departed over Rumaysh.

Between 0934 and 1045 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Killa and circled over Shikka, al-Arz, Beirut and the South, then departed over Rumaysh.

On 29 September 2007, between 1126 and 1300 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Dayr Mimas and circled over areas of Tripoli, the Bekaa, Beirut and the South, then departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

On 30 September 2007, between 1135 and 1300 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Dayr Mimas flying north as far as Tripoli and circled over areas of the South, the Bekaa, Tripoli and Beirut, then departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 2005 and 2105 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Naqura and flying as far as Beirut, circled over Beirut and Tyre and then departed over the sea off Naqurah.

Sea violations

None.

Field hostilities

On 25 September 2007, between 1900 and 1945 hours, the Israeli enemy fired a number of rounds of light- and medium-weapons fire from the Radar outpost (at Shab'a) into the area around the outpost.

On 26 September 2007, at 2205 hours, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight from Zarit barracks on the Mirwahin triangle.

On 29 September 2007, at 2200 hours, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight from Zarit barracks in the direction of the Mirwahin-Ramyah-Jabal Blat triangle.

United Nations S/2007/598

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 October 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 8 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to confirm to you that, during the presidency of the Republic of Ghana, a debate on the topic "Women and peace and security: towards a coherent and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)" will be held in the Council on 23 October 2007, chaired by Akwasi Osei-Adjei, M.P., Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana.

The Ghana Mission has prepared a concept paper to help guide the discussion on that occasion (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Leslie K. **Christian**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

07-53270 (E) 111007

Annex to the letter dated 8 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Women and peace and security: towards a coherent and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)

Concept paper

1. In recognition of the vital role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, the Security Council continues to be preoccupied with the full and effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) which was adopted on 31 October 2000. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), world leaders additionally stressed the importance of a coherent and integrated approach to the prevention and settlement of conflicts and reaffirmed their commitment to realization of the objectives in resolution 1325 (2000).

2. Towards this end, the Council has focused considerable attention on such fundamental issues as:

(a) The impact of armed conflict on women and girls;

(b) The full implementation of international humanitarian and human rights law so as to protect the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts, taking into account their special needs;

(c) Incorporating a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations, peace negotiations and in Security Council missions;

(d) Creating effective institutional arrangements that would not only guarantee the protection of women and girls but also ensure their full and equal participation in peace processes, including negotiations and decision-making.

3. One of the central objectives of resolution 1325 (2000) is gender mainstreaming in all aspects of peace and security. Its realization, however, calls for deliberate, purposeful and sustained interventions especially on the part of Member States, with the active collaboration and support of the United Nations and other relevant actors. The critical role of Member States in the full and effective implementation of the resolution cannot be overstated and is further underscored by the fact that national ownership is a prerequisite for the success of gender mainstreaming activities over the longer term. National ownership also enhances prospects of mobilizing the support of civil society groups while enhancing the impact of international assistance.

4. Consequently, resolution 1325 (2000) seeks to involve a broad range of stakeholders in gender mainstreaming, including the Security Council, the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies, Member States, non-governmental organizations and civil society groups as well as parties to peace negotiations. The resolution also emphasizes the need for adequate funding through voluntary contributions by Member States to facilitate the required institutional networking both at the national and international level.

5. While women increasingly play an important proactive role as partners in mediating and negotiating peace, in searching for justice, in fostering reconciliation, in supporting disarmament and demobilization, and in rebuilding national institutions, at the national level, the rate and means of implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) are far from adequate. Among others, in most countries, there are no mechanisms or systems to ensure accountability for failures in implementation of the resolution. Only a few Member States, mostly developed ones, have elaborated national plans or strategies to implement the resolution. In spite of the progress made in the area of policy reforms, norm setting, and institutional development, a large gap still exists between policy and practice, particularly at the country level, which need to be addressed urgently.

6. Since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the Security Council has organized annual debates on the subject "Women and peace and security" to advance the aims and purposes of the resolution. Successive debates have sought to review the progress made so far and thereby highlight the challenges to its full and effective implementation. It is to help sustain the momentum and growing commitment towards implementing resolution 1325 (2000) that Ghana has also decided to organize an open debate, during its presidency, on "Women and peace and security", on 23 October 2007, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana, Akwasi Osei-Adjei, M.P.

Scope

7. Given the need for commitment on the part of Member States for the successful implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), the debate will focus on how they can effectively meet their obligations as outlined in the resolution, in collaboration with the United Nations system. Among the questions participants may wish to address are:

- How to fully integrate the objectives of resolution 1325 (2000) into existing gender mainstreaming activities at the national and international levels, including, where appropriate, a gender perspective in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.
- How to introduce targeted gender-related activities into strategies and programmes on peace and security; for example, increasing the number of women considered for United Nations peacekeeping operations, Secretary-General's Special Representative and Special Envoy positions.
- Establishing the linkages between the activities carried out by the United Nations system and efforts by Member States to implement resolution 1325 (2000), particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- Mobilizing and actively involving civil society in the implementation of the resolution.
- Efficient monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure sustainability of positive changes in the situation and the role of women in conflict and post conflict countries.
- Progress towards greater coherence between national and international implementation of the resolution.

Expected outcome

8. It is anticipated that the debate will help strengthen the growing international awareness of the importance of the role of women in the maintenance of peace and security and in peacebuilding. This should be reflected in a presidential statement summing up the broad and concrete recommendations for enhancing the role of Member States in the full and effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), taking into account national peculiarities.

United Nations A/ES-10/402–S/2007/599

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 October 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 9 October 2007 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In blatant disrespect for international law and United Nations resolutions and in grave breach of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law, Israel, the occupying Power, is forging ahead with its illegal and vast settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Specifically, it is imperative to recall in this regard, among other relevant provisions of international law, articles 49 (6), 53 and 147 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949.

In this regard, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that this week Israel issued orders for the confiscation of at least 272 acres (110 hectares) of Palestinian land located across four Palestinian villages in an area outside Occupied East Jerusalem. Such flagrant appropriation of Palestinian land is clearly part and parcel of the occupying Power's overall scheme of illegal settlement activities and wall construction in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which have been carried out continuously and relentlessly on a daily basis despite United Nations resolutions, the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion and the position and pleas of the international community. Indeed, the confiscation of this large tract of Palestinian land between East Jerusalem and the Israeli settlement of "Maale Adumim" will facilitate the creation of a continuous settlement bloc in that area, while simultaneously preventing Palestinian territorial continuity between the area of Occupied East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley.

In addition to their illegality, such measures seriously undermine the current efforts being exerted for a resumption of dialogue and negotiations between the two sides aimed at achieving a final, just and peaceful settlement on the basis of the two-State solution, international law and United Nations resolutions. These unlawful measures are totally contradictory to the confidence-building measures necessary to sustain and move the peace process forward, and they obviously create more physical obstructions on the ground that further undermine the territorial integrity

07-53468 (E) 101007

and contiguity of the Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, which have been so gravely damaged already as a result of such unlawful practices.

Such unlawful measures by Israel, the occupying Power, are unjustifiable under any pretext or circumstances, and the decision to undertake them should be rescinded forthwith. The international community — for the sake of upholding international law and contributing to the advancement of the peace process — must reiterate in clear terms its firm opposition to these illegal colonization activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and must call upon Israel to immediately cease such illegal and detrimental policies and practices. Israel should be urged and explicitly compelled to abide by all of its legal obligations under international law and to once and for all abandon its expansionist aims and to proceed instead in good faith with genuine peace efforts, the successful culmination of which will be the only guarantor for the peace, stability and security so desired by both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 297 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 27 September 2007 (A/ES-10/401-S/2007/574), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

United Nations S/2007/600

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 October 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 9 October 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 August 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-53522 (E) 111007

Annex

Letter dated 5 October 2007 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 to 31 August 2007. I would appreciate your making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 August 2007.

2. As at 31 August 2007, the total number of troops in theatre was 15,078. This includes 2,456 troops from non-NATO countries.

Political situation

3. The extended period of negotiations on Kosovo's future status was officially launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in a public statement on 1 August 2007. The European Union, United States and Russian Federation Troika paid its first visit to Belgrade and Pristina on 10 and 11 August 2007. A second round of talks between the parties was held in Vienna on 30 August 2007. There was no major breakthrough in the negotiations so far as both Belgrade and Pristina retain their fundamental well-known positions.

4. Lieutenant General Kather handed over the command of the KFOR forces to Lieutenant General Bout de Marnhac during a ceremony at KFOR headquarters on 31 August 2007.

Security situation

5. Despite ongoing diplomatic uncertainty surrounding the future status process, the month of August was relatively calm. Reported incidents include the killing of one Kosovo Police Service officer for criminal reasons; a break-in and minor damage at a Serbian church in Multinational Task Force Centre, and the escape from Dubrava prison of seven prisoners suspected of possible terrorist activities. There were rumours of an increased number of Kosovo Serbs buying houses from Kosovo Albanians north of the River Ibar (Little Bosnia and Three Towers) at high prices.

6. During August 2007 no incidents against KFOR were recorded. The threat level against KFOR is low.

7. A total of 416 incidents related to drugs (23), counterfeit currency (29), smuggling (13), miscellaneous criminal incidents (99), illegal weapons possession (118), weapons and ammunitions seizure (68) and unexploded ordnance (66) were reported during this period. The total number of incidents is significantly higher than in July (337), the greatest increase being in illegal weapons possession and weapons seizure.

KFOR operations

8. The operational tempo remained steady. KFOR continues to help maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement through the conduct of framework operations and intelligence-driven operations. KFOR is fully prepared to react to potential disturbances Kosovo-wide.

Compliance

9. During the month of August, the KFOR Legal Adviser issued three certificates for three Kosovo Protection Corps members reported as absent without permission.

The Deputy Commander of the Kosovo Protection Corps issued one suspension order. The above-mentioned cases will be decided at the next Disciplinary Board meeting, scheduled for 18 September 2007.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. There was no recruitment campaign for the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) in August 2007.

11. The current active personnel establishment is 2,914. There are 196 (6.83 per cent) active ethnic minority members (172 male, 24 female). The total number of ethnic minorities remains the same as last month. The percentage of minorities within KPC is still short of the goal set by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and there are 113 open slots left in the active personnel establishment list. The reserve list includes 2,000 positions, of which 1,892 are filled (including 48 ethnic minority members, which equates 2.45 per cent).

12. KPC is still waiting for a donor country to increase the number of English language classes for the rest of 2007. The multinational task forces continue lessons on module-based training in accordance with agreed guidance. The new training order was released on 4 August 2007 and the new training programme will start on 1 September 2007. The third generation of university studies started on 27 August 2007 with 17 members. Seven KPC-managed projects were conducted throughout Kosovo.

13. During the month of August, 21 ceremonies involving 484 KPC members were held. There were no incidents reported.

Conclusion

14. The situation remains relatively calm but the political uncertainty related to the future status talks may raise tensions in the short term. KFOR remains fully prepared to deal with any unrest in Kosovo and would respond forcefully to any attempt to disrupt the political process, regardless of where it comes from. Tensions in Kosovo could potentially have repercussions in neighbouring areas, particularly in the northern part of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[1] and in the Presevo Valley.

[1] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.